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THE TIMES

25p

No. 65,424

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14 1995



THE £50,000 GAME

This week's leaders and scores, plus Steve Bould of Arsenal's choice. PAGES 22, 23



Agony of Ecstasy

Parents must face the truth: E is everywhere Valerie Grove PAGE 15



Right royal muck-raking

John Grigg on the flimsy evidence against the Duke of Windsor PAGE 16



Fear on the menu

How safe is the beef you are buying? PAGE 6

Pick-and-choose policy on Social Chapter



Blair: friendly welcome from Britain's industry

Blair pledges new deal for business

By Philip Bassett, industrial editor, and Philip Webster

Blinded by a better class of flannel

TONY BLAIR came to the CBI Conference in Birmingham yesterday, said nothing, and said it sweetly. He was received by a friendlier audience than he meets among less sympathetic folk — the Labour Party, for instance. In the subdued lighting and velvet plush, Blair seemed a fleet of chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royces. Inside waited a sea of expensive charcoal flannel. Inside Mr Blair waited a deluge of expensive pastel flannel waiting to get out. Flannel was exchanged with a warmth amounting almost to passion.

CBI SKETCH

Matthew Parris

The affections of industry are turning. It reminded this observer of an African childhood holiday spent in what was then Nyasaland, in the week when it became clear that Britain was to grant Nyasaland independence. Every Asian shopkeeper in every village had, since time forgotten, displayed a photograph of the Queen on the wall behind his cash register. Overnight the Queen disappeared, to be replaced by a portrait of Dr Hastings Banda with the motto Kwachal (Freedom) underneath. In business, you deal. So British business has decided Mr Blair may not be Satan and Mr Blair had come to tell them that they are right in their surmise. The charcoal Continued on page 2, col 6

BRITAIN'S industrial leaders yesterday gave Tony Blair strong backing as he laid out plans for a new deal between Labour and business under which people could become rich through hard work and risk-taking without fear of being penalised.

Business leaders signalled their readiness to work with a Labour government after Mr Blair's first speech as leader to the Confederation of British Industry conference. He ruled out draconian increases in taxation and made plain for the first time that signing up to the European Social Chapter would not mean that he would accept all of its key provisions. He described the Chapter as a "set of principles" and said that a Labour government would judge each piece of legislation relating to it on its merits. "I have no intention whatever of agreeing to anything and everything that emerges from the EU," he said.

In an address received more warmly than that, later in the day, of Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Blair reassured the business community that penal rates of taxation did not make economic or political sense and were "gone for good".

He added: "I want a tax regime where, through their hard work, risk and success, people can become wealthy. Let me say for the avoidance of doubt, Britain needs successful people in business who can become rich by their success, through the money they earn."

Close supporters of Mr Blair were delighted not only that the conference in Birmingham supported a new partnership between business and Labour, but that Mr Heseltine refused to engage in a political fight over which party now enjoys greater business backing.

Mr Blair's remarks on the Social Chapter must mean that he will fight those parts of it which he considers could cause damage. Firms are subject to majority voting in the EU and Britain could not stop them on its own. But others

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have to be passed unanimously and Mr Blair was giving a clear signal that he might be ready to use the veto.

Mr Heseltine chose in his speech not to take on Mr Blair's largely successful appeal for business to join with Labour in a partnership to improve Britain's economy. Instead he made a detailed but muted speech about the competitiveness of UK companies which key Conservative business supporters saw as insufficient as a response to Mr Blair's challenge.

After the speech, Mr Heseltine took a much tougher line, arguing that the policies put forward by the Labour leader would "wreck the economy" and stop the recovery in its tracks.

He said it was what Mr Blair did not tell business which was so damaging — in particular Labour's policies which would push up industry's costs and hand power back to the trade unions. Mr Heseltine said of business that "when it comes to it, they know perfectly well that this Government has created an enterprise centre in this country."

The Tories later tried to undermine Mr Blair's well-acclaimed performance. Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative chairman, referring to an attack on the redundancy pay-offs to boardroom executives, said: "We have seen two-faced Labour today." As Mr Blair was giving "soft reassuring words" to Britain's bosses another of his spokesmen was putting the boot into them.

Mr Mawhinney said: "It shows that, whatever Mr Blair may say today, Labour is as determined as ever to penalise those at the top of British industry."

At the conference today Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary will

attack Labour's support for the Social Chapter and hint that the CBI should be more outspoken in opposing it.

Yesterday, however, Mr Blair came out a clear winner. Stopwatch counts of the applause for each speech recorded a 55-second ovation for Mr Blair, 39 seconds for Mr Heseltine.

Mr Blair declared the opening of a "new era" in relations between Labour and business. Pledging Labour's support for Britain as a nation of wealth-creators, he said, in a clear reference to traditional conservatism, that he wanted Britain to work as "one nation economically" in addition to being "one nation socially."

He also disclosed that the deal to allow BT to link schools, hospitals and libraries to the information superhighway would not mean that BT would have monopoly status. Labour was in discussion with the cable companies and other providers, such as Ionica and Mercury, to ensure that there is free and fair competition.

Business leaders' reaction to Mr Blair was strongly favourable. Michael Perry, chairman of Unilever, said that Mr Blair's speech had made "converts" among the CBI and that Mr Blair had confirmed that serious policies were now being considered by Labour.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, the CBI President, welcomed the new "constructive relationship". Adair Turner, the CBI Director-General, said the speech was "well received" and added: "The overall programme he outlined attracted a lot of interest and we can agree with many of the broad points of principle."

Acknowledging "broad support" for a lot of what Mr Blair said, he called for clarification on specific policies such as tax rates and made it clear that business still had concerns about issues such as the minimum wage and the Social Chapter. "But we do recognise the significant shift in attitude towards business and we welcome that."

John Dunford, President of the Secondary Heads Association, welcomed Mr Davies' proposals. He said: "I think the present currency of the word A level should disappear. A better solution would be to call all courses, both academic and vocational, advanced. Then we would have a step towards what we are looking for — something that brings GNVQ and A level into a unified system."



Hope fades for Leah Betts, whose condition last night was described as critical

Girl named drug dealer before slipping into coma

By Andrew Pierce and Stewart Tandler

A TEENAGE girl who collapsed after taking an Ecstasy tablet at her 18th birthday party named the person who supplied her with the drug only seconds before she slipped into a coma, her father said yesterday.

Hope was fading last night for Leah Betts whose condition was described as critical. Dr John Durcan, consultant anaesthetist at Broomfield General Hospital, Chelmsford, said: "There has been no brain stem activity. She was brought into the hospital unconscious having stopped breathing at home. The longer she remains in this state the more pessimistic we become. There is a significant chance that she will not survive."

Esses detectives have bailed three girls and two boys aged between 17 and 19 as they piece together the supply chain. Police say Leah asked a girlfriend about getting drugs for the party and the two then approached a boy who agreed

to make the purchases. The tablets were bought for £45 from a dealer at a nightclub in Basildon 20 miles away last Friday. Detectives are considering trying to trace the hundreds of teenagers who attended the club that night.

Leah and her friend picked up the drugs in Basildon after she finished work at the department store where she worked on Saturdays for the party that night. She took the tablet, about the size of an aspirin baring the imprint of an apple, at 8.30pm and collapsed at 1.30am. The friend also took one but was unaffected.

Police forces throughout the country were alerted to a description of the tablet yesterday in a bid to prevent other supplies from reaching unwitting victims. Police are desperate to find the main source for the drugs, which they believe could come from a laboratory somewhere in London or the Home Counties. DCI David

Storey, who is leading the investigation, said it was unlikely that the drugs had been imported. It was possible that Leah had become ill because of the substance used to bind the drug into a pill.

Four students, who were at the party, yesterday released a statement: "We are all friends of Leah. The party on Saturday Continued on page 2, col 1

Valerie Grove, page 15

Iranians blamed for bomb in Saudi capital

By Michael Evans, Michael Binyon and Tom Rhodes in Washington

AN Iranian-backed terrorist organisation was most likely to have been responsible for yesterday's bomb explosion in Riyadh which killed at least six people, including four Americans.

The blast wrecked the facade of a building used by the Americans to train the Saudi National Guard, destroyed cars and caused damage across a mile-wide area.

A previously unknown organisation called the Tigers of the Gulf claimed responsibility for the explosion in the Saudi capital, but there were strong Western intelligence suspicions that Iran may have been behind it.

An organisation such as the Islamic Hezbollah, which is financed by Tehran, is committed to seeing the departure of Americans and other Westerners from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

Western diplomatic sources said the bomb appeared to have been aimed at driving the Americans out and punishing the Saudis for allowing an American military presence in the kingdom.

Although fundamentalist groups inside Saudi Arabia have become increasingly vociferous, diplomats said the blast was the work of professionals.

Iran was seen as one of the most likely suspects, but Western diplomats acknowledged that there was no proof of a connection.

The British Embassy in Riyadh urged the 30,000 Britons in Saudi Arabia to take extra precautions. In Washington, President Clinton promised "an enormous effort" to find those responsible.

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Labour plans to phase out A levels

By David Charter, education correspondent

A LEVELS would be phased out by a Labour government, Bryan Davies, the party's spokesman for further and higher education, said yesterday.

Mr Davies said that Labour planned to introduce a new qualification, comprising academic and job-related courses. The party's education advisers are still wrestling over a name for the new qualification

which will eventually replace A-level and vocational courses. The current favourite appears to be the Advanced Diploma, although National Certificate, Advanced Certificate and General Certificate of Further Education have been considered.

The party has deliberately avoided saying A levels would disappear since Tony Blair became leader last summer. But yesterday Mr Davies said that only the "rigour" of the A level would live on under Labour in the long-term.

The change in policy will be officially launched in a document on the new qualifications framework in the New Year.

The Government's view is that A levels must be retained whatever the outcome of the review of post-16 qualifications now being undertaken by Sir Ron Dearing, its Chief Curriculum Adviser. Sir Ron, who is due to make his final recommendations at Easter, has said: "I am not threatening A levels. I dare not. It is not

by accident that they are so highly regarded."

Mr Davies told a London conference on qualifications for 14 to 19-year-olds yesterday that it would take at least five years for A levels to disappear, probably longer, as they became integrated into its diploma.

Mr Davies said: "I recognise the value of A levels. We all do. But excellence cannot be offered to a minority and denied to so many. All learners have a right to high standards."

"Unless we are prepared to consider reform of the present structure of A levels to include greater breadth of learning, we are just not going to be able to overcome the present shortcomings of the system."

He said the consensus for change among academics and employers was "simply too strong and too urgent."

The traditional choice of three rigorous academic subjects would still be possible as the diploma was phased in, he

said. But the new qualification would enable students to pick their own individual mix of academic, vocational and work-based modules.

Mr Davies came under fire for his ideas from a grant-maintained school head teacher at the conference. Elspeth Insh, head of King Edward VI School in Handsworth, Birmingham, accused him of demolishing the A level. Mr Davies replied that far from demolishing the qualifications, he was trying to retain their rigour while broadening them out.

John Dunford, President of the Secondary Heads Association, welcomed Mr Davies' proposals. He said: "I think the present currency of the word A level should disappear. A better solution would be to call all courses, both academic and vocational, advanced. Then we would have a step towards what we are looking for — something that brings GNVQ and A level into a unified system."

West 'admitted 20 more murders'

Fred West confessed to killing 20 victims whose bodies had never been recovered during talks with a voluntary worker, it was claimed yesterday.

Janet Leach was giving evidence during the trial of Rose West, who denies 10 charges of murder. Mrs Leach, who collapsed while giving evidence last Tuesday, said West had told her that he, Rosemary West, her father and other men were responsible for the 20 other deaths. Page 3

Gascoigne faces police inquiry

Paul Gascoigne, the England and Glasgow Rangers footballer, is to be investigated by Strathclyde Police after incidents in a match against Aberdeen at Ibrox on Saturday.

Gascoigne, who is likely to miss the friendly against Switzerland at Wembley tomorrow because of injury, was allegedly involved in clashes with two players. Page 48

Frenzy for Aga Khan jewellery

THE sumptuous jewels of Begum Salimah Aga Khan went up for auction yesterday in a buying frenzy boosted by two weeks of courtroom drama.

In a crowded salon at a Geneva hotel, early lots fetched up to eight times their pre-sale estimate. Prince Karim Aga Khan, spiritual leader of the Ismaili Muslims and one of the world's richest men, had tried to stop the sale, saying the terms of his divorce from the British-born former model prevented her selling off the collection. But he lost his final appeal on Friday.

The total value of the collection is put at about £10 million. But a Christie's spokeswoman said that the first 140 minor lots had fetched £1 million, more than twice pre-sale estimates. She did not expect larger pieces to exceed their estimates so easily. The star is the £4.5 million Begum Blue diamond. (Reuter)

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'These people prey on our children like vultures and don't care what their evil does'

Parents of Ecstasy coma victim warn of drug dangers

By Andrew Pierce

THE father of Leah Betts, who was close to death in a coma last night after taking an Ecstasy tablet at her 18th birthday party, told yesterday of the "love, hate and anger" he felt.

Mr Betts, 49, a retired police inspector, said: "I feel love for my daughter, anger for people who use these drugs and hatred for the bastards who supply them. I thought I knew my own daughter but does any parent really know where their children are all the time and what they are doing?"

Mr Betts and his wife Janet have written an open letter to parents warning them of the dangers of drug taking. The letter says: "Children will always be tempted to try something new. In our time it was cigarettes. Today that new experience is drugs."

"Wherever children are there may be scum like the individuals who supplied these rogue tablets which have probably destroyed my daughter's life. These people prey on our children like vultures and they don't care what their evil trade is doing. Our children must become more aware of the dangers. Drugs are like sex education — a subject to be brushed under the carpet. This can't be right."

Mr Betts said: "We were at home with her. It was a lovely day and it all went wrong. We were there because you hear of these things happening. We were there to stop it. But it happened in the next room. I wanted people to see my kid lying in hospital because that says more than I could ever say. We have no idea why she would want to try out drugs."

"We have always been an open family and we have dis-

cussed drugs because as an ex-police officer I have seen what they can do. I thought I had got the message across. But perhaps it was curiosity or peer pressure that made her do it. I would love to say Leah was completely innocent but before she went into a coma she admitted buying one of these pills."

"I would say to other parents you must talk to your children. You can help take drugs off the street by speaking to the police. Only they can put these people where they belong where they can't hurt anyone else."

Leah, the couple's eldest daughter who was studying three A levels at Basildon College, had been celebrating her birthday with 20 friends at home in Latchingdon, Essex, when she told her mother she felt unwell and collapsed early on Sunday.

Janet Betts, 46, Leah's step-mother, a nurse who advises children about drug abuse, gave Leah the kiss of life after

A single tablet of Ecstasy is highly unlikely to have caused Leah Betts to go into a coma. Britain's leading expert on drug toxicology said yesterday. "There is virtually nothing in one tablet that can cause coma and death in that amount of time," Dr John Heary, director of the National Poisons Unit at Guy's Hospital in London, said. Although some dealers sold Ecstasy adulterated with substances such as paracetamol to increase their profits, these were less dangerous than the drug itself, he said.

she collapsed. She said: "She looked stunning that night. She had bought a new outfit. She had just blown the candles out and cut the cake. What a waste."

Leah bought the drug for £10 after she had finished her Saturday job at Allers department store in Basildon. She took the tablet at about 8.30pm. A friend, who is understood to have bought a pill at the same time, suffered no ill effects.

Just before 1.30am on Sunday she rushed to the bathroom. Mr Betts said: "When she collapsed she screamed for Janet to help her. We could see from her dilated pupils that something was wrong. Jan screamed at her: 'What have you taken?' She admitted taking an Ecstasy tablet. Mrs Betts said her daughter's last words before she drifted into a coma were "Help me".

Detective Chief Inspector Brian Storey from Chelmsford police said: "We are after the main supplier and any information will be treated in strictest confidence. Obviously we would like to stop the supply of drugs completely. But warning after warning seems to go unheard. 'Mr and Mrs Betts are very brave. They are speaking out and what they are doing will help young people not just locally but across the country.'"

A drug dealer telephoned police yesterday after losing a bag of super-strength Ecstasy tablets and asked them to warn the public they could be dangerous. The anonymous caller said he had lost a plastic bag containing 73 of the brown tablets with a dove on one side in Longton, Staffordshire.

Valerie Grove, page 15



Paul Betts and his wife Jan being comforted at a news conference yesterday as their daughter lay critically ill

Thousands take tablets every week

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

TENS of thousands of youngsters are believed to take Ecstasy every week when they attend clubs and dances. No one knows the exact number, but some estimates put it at more than 500,000.

Initially it was the ideal drug for recreational use, producing a mild feeling of euphoria, but doubts over its reliability and fears of adulteration have led users to explore alternatives.

Within a few years of Ecstasy arriving in Britain, its strength and purity had declined by between 10 and 20 per cent. In recent years users have found the tablets adulterated with other substances, including caffeine, anti-histamines and, in one-off cases, fish tank cleaners and dog worming tablets.

Mike Goodman, of the drug agency Release, said that he did not think Ecstasy use was on the wane. "It is part of the growing youth culture where you will get people taking different drugs at different times," he added that it was far more important for people to look at the

psychological effects, including mood swings, anxiety, panic attacks and loss of appetite. "It is not a risk-free drug. On the health side we do not know about its long-term effects, particularly if people have been stacking — taking one tablet an hour after another."

What is Ecstasy? Known chemically as dioxymethamphetamine, or MDMA for short, it is a stimulant related to amphetamines. It was first synthesised in 1914 by the German pharmaceutical company E Merck. It has hallucinogenic effects, distorting perceptions of reality. Produced in illegal drug factories or laboratories.

Short-term effects: Possible sweating, dry mouth and throat, raised blood pressure and loss of appetite appear up to an hour after taking the drug. Can affect bodily co-ordination. Users say it makes them feel energetic, in tune with their friends, loving and warm. Some women say it makes young men less sexually predatory. Main effect lasts three to four hours but users may not be able to sleep for several hours afterwards.

Long-term effects: Repeated use can

make a person anxious, panicky or confused. Evidence of liver damage. Some people feel depressed a few days after taking the drug.

Law: Class A drug. It is illegal to possess, sell or give away. A person convicted of supplying it faces life imprisonment and or an unlimited fine.

Taking Ecstasy at raves: Can bring on heatstroke, dehydration and asthma attacks. The high blood pressure can cause strokes, blood clotting, kidney failure. Other names: E, rhabarb and custard (red and yellow capsules), disco burgers, love doves, (the dove is stamped on the tablet), banana split, nam 9 echoes and Denis the Menace (red and black capsules).

Price: £8 to £15 each. Lower price for bulk purchases.

Usage: The third most popular recreational drug after cannabis and LSD/ amphetamines.

Deaths: Precise figures difficult, but one estimate suggests at least 50 Ecstasy-related deaths in Britain since 1990. Most deaths caused by respiratory failure but at least one fatal brain haemorrhage.

Girl named drug dealer before coma

Continued from page 1

day night was an 18th birthday party, not a drugs party and we want everyone to know that. We satisfied the police and everybody co-operated with them because we felt so strongly about it. Leah's parents were in the house all night, when she stopped breathing they were there to resuscitate her. We all desperately want Leah to get better."

Leah's father Paul, 49, a retired Metropolitan Police officer said he felt love, anger and hate. "Love for my daughter, anger at the people who take drugs and hate for the bastards who supplied this tablet." Referring to a picture of his daughter on a life-support machine he said: "That photo conveys more than I can ever say."

Mr Betts said that Leah admitted taking Ecstasy when she collapsed at her home in Latchingdon near Maldon, Essex. "I asked Leah where she had got them. She mentioned a name and that she had bought it on her way home from her Saturday job. It was not a name I knew."

Valerie Grove, page 15

Accused water firms promise full rebuttal

By Nick Nuttall, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE water companies accused of cheating their customers by charging them for sub-standard services said yesterday that they could answer all accusations.

Ian Byatt, Director-General of the Office of Water Services (Ofwat), has launched investigations into North West, South West and Yorkshire water companies, citing a catalogue of failures. Ofwat's actions were revealed in letters disclosed in *The Times*.

A spokesman for Yorkshire Water said: "We dispute a large amount of the information provided in the letter and we will be replying to him later this week in a letter which will be made public." Both North West and South West said that they could answer all Mr Byatt's concerns.

But Anthony Goldstone, chairman of Ofwat's services committee in the North West, said: "There is still a kind of arrogance among water companies despite concerns among customers over standards of service. They think the Government has given them a right to provide utilities and they can do what the hell they like." He said he

hoped the investigations would get customer service back at the heart of water firms' philosophies.

Jessica Thomas, chairwoman of the South West customer service committee, said bills were 50 per cent higher than anywhere else in the country and were costing some customers a tenth of their income.

Paul Taylor, regional manager of Yorkshire's customer service committee, said the company could often be too defensive in face of customers' concerns. "We need a full inquiry into what has happened this summer in York-



Tyler to ask John Gummer for statement

shire for the public's sake."

The decision to launch the investigations comes after Mr Byatt gathered evidence from companies and regulators, including the National Rivers Authority and the Department of the Environment's Drinking Water Inspectorate, since 1990.

Mr Byatt has told North West water that "total and faecal coliforms" have been found in water supplied to 11 per cent of its 6.8 million customers and that that should not have happened.

The company yesterday denied claims that 700,000 homes had been served sewage-contaminated water. A spokesman said that the drinking water was "very safe and at no time has there been any risk to public health."

But John Fawell, a toxicologist at the Water Research Centre in Henley on Thames, said yesterday: "The faecal coliform, *E coli*, would be an indicator of sewage pollution."

Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrat MP and joint honorary secretary of the all-party water group, said he would demand a statement from John Gummer, the Environment Secretary.

TV Erotica channel faces ban

By Emma Wilkins

THE Government will ban the pornographic satellite channel TV Erotica on the grounds that it is harmful to children. Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, indicated yesterday.

The Swedish-based station transmits hard-core pornography but can be viewed only with a £139 "smart card" that unscrambles the picture. The Independent Television Commission told the Department of National Heritage eight months ago that TV Erotica was repeatedly showing explicit sex.

Mrs Bottomley said yesterday: "When there is material going out that is damaging to children's health and well-being then there are necessary powers that need to be taken."

The Government can effectively ban TV Erotica from British screens by making it an offence to sell the smart cards or to advertise or publish information about the service.

Mr ITC has upheld a viewer's complaint against The Adult Channel, which accidentally broadcast unscrambled pornography for 34 minutes after midnight last August.

Flanneller Blair wins over the CBI

Continued from page 1

Blannell scrutinised him for horns and saw none. The flanneller assured them that his mission was friendly.

His message was received in something close to ecstasy. Those who have watched two dogs sniffing, at first guardedly, around each other's bottoms, tails tentatively then more excitedly wagging, would recognise the scene.

Blair began with a quick salvo of the impromptu affability at which he excels. Relentlessly personable, he joshed the chairman a bit, then, after a joke or two, took the mickey out of Labour leaders generally. This charm has all the fluidity of steel wool: light, unthreatening, and it does the job.

In keeping with Mr Blair's developing style, his prepared text had that Magic Eye quality which enthusiasts for the visual trick may recognise. Magic Eye pictures seem meaningless — until you relax your optical muscles, unfocus and stare into the middle-distance. Then a psychedelic vision takes shape from the blur.

So it was with Mr Blair's speech. I noted down "sound, sensible, modern," "transformed" and "yes! we've changed." I noted "ambition

with compassion; success with social justice" and "grasp new opportunities." There was "new era," "address the future with confidence," and "a young country, new economics, new age, new millennium" as well as "new start."

There was also "vision," "consensus" and "spectrum." There was "passion," "commitment" and "mission," and something about a tight fiscal stance. "The passion of my government..." began his peroration.

He might equally have said "the government of my passion," "the vision of my consensus," or "the spectrum of my vision." A young vision. Flexible, multi-facilitated and committed. New compassion. Mission with opportunity. Yes! we've grasped the transformation. Yes! we've transformed the grasp.

The individual abstract nouns, you see, have no meaning in themselves. But relax your intellect and stare into the middle-distance and a sort of purple and orange fantasy dream-machine swims into focus.

It did in Birmingham yesterday for the captains of British industry. They applauded almost without reserve.

Animal activist's sentence reduced

An animal rights activist had his 14-year prison sentence for criminal damage and attempted arson reduced to 11 years on appeal at the High Court yesterday after judges were told he had renounced violence.

Keith Mann, 29, from Bury, Greater Manchester, was jailed by the Old Bailey last November after a four-year campaign of sabotage against the meat and poultry industry. The appeal judges said they had been impressed by evidence that he was no longer "a ruthless fanatic".

Outside court, however, his mother Doreen, supported by more than 200 animal rights demonstrators, said the reduction was tokenism and she would take the case to Europe in the hope of securing an immediate release.

Success halts drug trials

Tests on a new drug to combat heart failure have been stopped after trials were found to be highly effective. The drug, carvedilol, was given to 1,100 patients receiving conventional treatment for heart failure. After one year, deaths fell by 67 per cent compared with an untreated group.

The trial, conducted in America and Australia, was stopped early on the advice of the independent Data and Safety Monitoring Board, which recommended that all patients not receiving the drug should be offered it.

Editor resigns

The resignation was announced last night of Ian Hargreaves, Editor of the *Independent*, who succeeded Andreas Whitam-Smith in August last year. Liam Healy, chairman of Newspaper Publishing, said the search for a new editor would begin immediately.

Father jailed

Martin Hallam, 35, from Leeds, who abducted his daughter from his estranged wife Michelle, 34, was jailed for 18 months yesterday by Leeds Crown Court. Hallam had taken Emma, 8, to America where they lived as fugitives for more than three years.

Escape charges

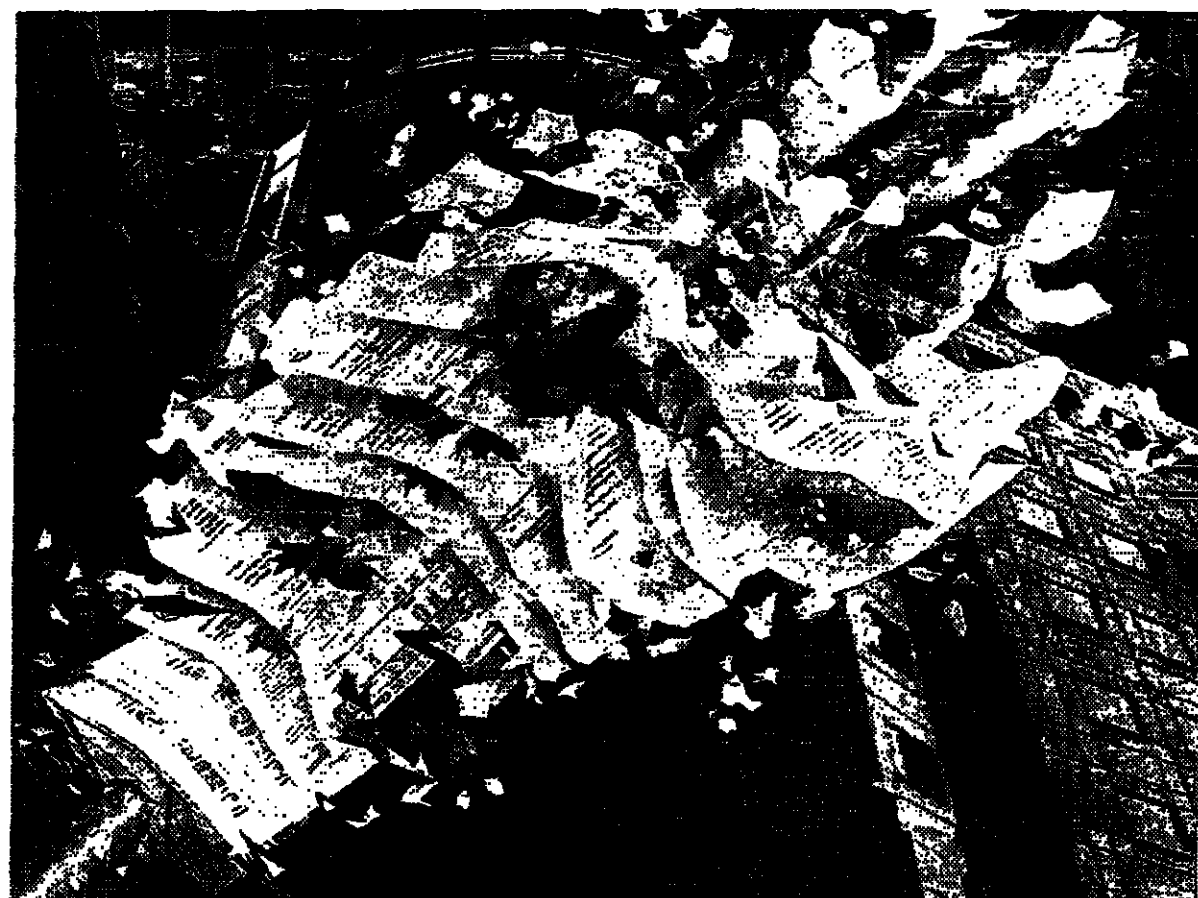
Three top-security prisoners appeared before Portsmouth magistrates charged over the breakout from Parkhurst in January. Keith Rose, Matthew Williams and Andrew Rodger were accused of escaping from lawful custody and causing damage to a Cessna aircraft. The case was adjourned.

'Bubble' boy

Aaron Nawaz, 18 months, who was born with a dysfunctional immune system and has spent a year inside a germ-proof plastic bubble at Newcastle General Hospital, is expected to be allowed home to Middlesbrough today after a bone marrow donation from his brother Hansa, 4.

Darcy pin-up

Radio Times today publishes its first pin-up, a full-page poster of actor Colin Firth dressed in tailcoat, cravat and breeches as Mr Darcy in the BBC Television version of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. The series was watched by ten million people each week.



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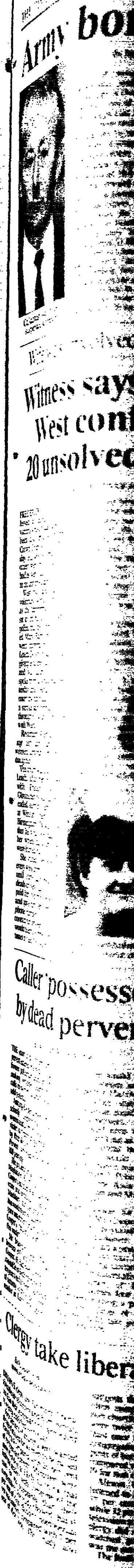
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Army bomb disposal hero cheated MoD of £30,000



Callaghan: was given suspended sentence

ONE of Britain's most-decorated peacetime soldiers was convicted yesterday of cheating the Ministry of Defence out of more than £30,000. The judge told him that he escaped prison only because of the exceptional bravery he had shown in the past.

Kevin Callaghan, 51, a former warrant officer in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, once headed the Provisional IRA's wanted list with a £10,000 reward on his head because of his achievements as a bomb-disposal expert.

He won the George Medal for bravery in Northern Ireland after a tour of duty in 1972-73 when he dismantled 33 IRA bombs. In 1980 he returned to Ulster and was awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal after dismantling two 300 lb bombs and crawling inside a booby-trapped van to disarm 600 lb of explosives.

Yet since those actions he had led a double life, Bristol Crown Court was

told during a two-week trial. For three years he used his Ministry of Defence accommodation allowances to finance a second home with his mistress, Andrea McMullen, 36, a mature student.

In 1993 Callaghan wrote *A Price On My Head*, about his service exploits. Yesterday he was found guilty of seven specimen counts of deception and four of supplying false information. He was jailed for 18 months on each, to run concurrently, suspended for two years.

The court was told that Callaghan, who left the Army in 1984 to take a civilian job with the MoD, was transferred from a Royal Navy armaments depot in Dyfed to a depot near Bath in January 1991.

He had left his wife, Valerie, in March 1990 and was living with Miss McMullen in Wales. Though he originally wrote a letter confirming that he was living with Miss McMullen and her eight-year-old daughter and no longer qualified for

married officers' allowances, 17 days later he wrote again saying that he and his wife were reconciled and that she and his daughter Samantha would be living with him at his new posting.

The next month he completed a form claiming the higher rate of allowances as a married officer. He moved into a bedsit in Bath with Miss McMullen while claiming that his wife and daughter would be joining him. He also claimed an allowance for retention of rooms for their home in North Wales.

John Royce, QC, for the prosecution, told the court: "It was a sham, a charade by a man who was greedy, a man with more than a touch of arrogance who thought he could get away with it."

"His real interest in going to Bath was not in finding a home for his wife and family. His real interest was to find a love nest for his girlfriend. It was not long before his girlfriend, Miss McMullen, had moved in with

him. He put in claims for allowances in excess of £30,000 when, in reality, he was entitled to about £3,000."

The prosecution said Callaghan and Miss McMullen made a joint application for a mortgage to buy a new home in Bristol in July 1991. Callaghan put up £10,500 towards the £57,000 house, and then began making false claims for lodging allowances, claiming that Miss McMullen was his landlady.

Callaghan was arrested after an MoD investigation in December 1993. He told police he had been living with his wife in March 1991 and that his relationship with Miss McMullen had broken down. He admitted that Miss McMullen had moved in with him in Bath, but claimed he had merely stood surety for her on her mortgage in Bristol and that she was his landlady.

He still claimed that he had every intention of moving his wife to Bath when his house in Wales was sold. Mr Royce said: "Here was a man

who had achieved great things in the services, a man who thought that, perhaps because of what he had achieved, they would not get after him."

In sentencing Callaghan, Judge Bursell, QC, said: "I bear in mind your age, your previous good character, your quite exceptional service and bravery on behalf of your country. This is something which your country can never repay, but this is one occasion when I think it will count in your favour. I have come to the conclusion that I can suspend the sentence."

Speaking later Callaghan said: "They did not believe my story. You do something years ago and you never think it will be clinically dissected in a court of law. You are not allowed to say what you want. I did not believe I had done anything wrong. I thought that it was within the rules." He is suspended from his job at the armaments department of the MoD.



McMullen: girlfriend described as landlady

Wife was involved in killings and bodies were buried at farm, court is told

Witness says Frederick West confessed to 20 unsolved murders

BY RICHARD DUCE AND BILL FROST

FREDERICK WEST confessed to killing 20 more victims whose bodies have not been discovered, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday. His wife, Rosemary, and others were involved and the bodies were said to be buried at an unnamed farm.

West told Janet Leach, a voluntary worker nominated as the "appropriate adult" to sit in on his interviews with police, that the victims included Mary Bastholm, 15, who went missing in 1968. Mrs Leach, 39, who collapsed while giving evidence last Tuesday and was taken to hospital, spoke from a wheelchair yesterday after being brought to court by ambulance. She had a stroke last year after sitting through 80 hours of interviews with West.

Rosemary West denies killing ten girls and young women, among them her own daughter.

The court was told that Mrs Leach, after her involvement with Frederick West at Gloucester police station had ended, kept in touch with him at Winsor Green prison in Birmingham. She was hoping that he would eventually tell her where the other bodies were buried, but he never did.

She visited West in prison every week from July last year until some days before his death on New Year's Day. She paid her own travel expenses and gave him her home telephone number so he could contact her between visits. He would telephone three or more times a week. "He wanted me

to go and visit him. He said he would disclose where the other bodies were buried. I wanted to get to the bottom of where he buried the rest of the girls," she said.

West told her that he, Rosemary West, her father and other men were responsible for the 20 deaths. Mrs Leach said she could not judge whether West was telling her the truth.

Richard Ferguson, QC, for the defence, asked: "There was no question about keeping in touch with Frederick West so you could get further information from him?"

Mrs Leach: "I wanted all the other girls' bodies found."

Mr Ferguson reminded her that earlier she had denied having spoken to the press and receiving any money from them. "You accepted an offer of £100,000 for the exclusive rights for your story."

Mrs Leach replied: "I haven't signed anything." She

then admitted meeting representatives from Mirror Group Newspapers and entered an agreement with them on August 2, 1994, and was due to get £100,000 for the exclusive rights to her story.

She said an initial £7,500 payment had gone to her boyfriend, Brian Jones, and she had also given him a further £5,000 she received. Other smaller sums were involved in the deal and there was also a chalet holiday in Somerset with her boyfriend and three of her children.

Mrs Leach had also told the court in her earlier evidence that she told no one of West's confessions until after his death because she had signed a confidentiality agreement with the police. However, under cross-examination yesterday she admitted that in the summer of last year she contacted the *Daily Mirror* through a friend because she was planning to write a book. "I wanted the truth told. Fred asked me to contact them because he wanted the truth told."

She denied she had embellished her evidence to make her story more marketable. She denied helping West to fabricate a "vivid and lurid" version of events in which Rosemary West was as deeply implicated as her husband.

The jury was read a letter to Mrs Leach from West in prison in which he said: "It was lovely to see you on Friday. You looked well. Keep it up kid, you look great. When this you read remember me.



Mary Bastholm, who went missing in 1968



Janet Leach giving evidence yesterday from a wheelchair. A doctor sits near by

Schizophrenic left hospital and killed his mother

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A SCHIZOPHRENIC stabbed his mother to death a month after being released from a mental unit, a court was told yesterday. Raymond Sinclair, 33, convinced doctors at Joyce Green Hospital in Dartford, Kent, that he no longer heard voices telling him to kill.

While in the community, Sinclair was expected to receive regular injections to control his mental illness. But Maidstone Crown Court was told that it was his responsibility to ensure he received medication and he had missed one injection before attacking his mother.

Sinclair became a voluntary patient at Joyce Green in 1994. Less than two months after being released he stabbed his brother, Stephen. Anne Rafferty, QC, for the prosecution, said: "After the attack, Sinclair said the voices had instructed him to kill Stephen."

He went back into Joyce Green for a month and on his release he went to live with his mother at her flat in Denton, Gravesend. He told her that voices had instructed him to kill her.

On November 3 last year

Esther Eastwood, a neighbour, heard shouting from the house. She heard Sinclair's mother, Mary Povey, saying: "Stop it Raymond" and ran to the flat. Both were covered in blood and Sinclair was carrying a 4in knife. Miss Rafferty said: "Sinclair seemed to be fairly calm and put down the knife which enabled Mrs Eastwood to take it and with some presence of mind throw it over a fence."

Mrs Povey, 64, a widowed mother of nine, was stabbed several times in the stomach and chest and died on the way to hospital. When he was arrested Sinclair told police: "I just freaked out."

He denied murder, but admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. Mr Justice Newman ordered that he be detained indefinitely at Broadmoor.

Christopher Jarman, Sinclair's psychiatrist, said: "It's very difficult to challenge patients with this condition. Sinclair knew that if he said he wasn't hearing voices, he might be released. Unfortunately, at the critical moment, he was asked if he still heard them and said he wasn't."

Caller 'possessed by dead pervert'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE spirit of a 19th-century pervert entered the body of a former policeman accused of making obscene telephone calls to women, a court was told yesterday.

Anthony Cooper denies consciously telephoning the women and claims he was the victim of "spirit attachment" by Peter Wilson — Peter the Pervert — who died more than 100 years ago.

The prosecution at Watford Magistrates' Court says Mr Cooper's conduct was "deliberate and conscious". David Markham said the prosecution would reject the defence of spirit attachment and that Mr Cooper's "cravings were of this world".

Mr Markham said that, between 1971 and 1974, Mr Cooper, 43, had been a police constable in Bedfordshire. For ten years he had been the head of security at the Asda supermarket in Luton. Mr Mark-

ham said he would first call his chosen victim saying he was Inspector Harrison from Watford police station and that the woman could expect a call from a pervert.

She should keep the man talking for as long as possible so the call could be traced. "The female would then receive a call from a man calling himself Peter," Police traced the calls to the Asda security office in Luton and Mr Cooper was arrested.

Simon Lesson, for the defence, said Mr Cooper admitted that he physically made the calls. However, the defence would call a psychologist who would say that Mr Cooper was acting unconsciously in a state of automatism.

Mr Cooper, of Leighton Buzzard, denies four charges of impersonating a police officer and three of making indecent calls last year. The case continues.

Woman in death crash 'dozed off'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN lorry driver who killed three men when her 38-tonne vehicle ploughed into their car on a motorway may have fallen asleep, a court was told yesterday.

When Lorretta Campbell, 24, got out of the crashed lorry, she pulled out the tachograph record and destroyed it, it was claimed at Aylesbury Crown Court.

Miss Campbell had been working for 13 consecutive days when her lorry crashed a Ford Sierra which was moving slowly along the hard shoulder of the M25 with a puncture. Donald Plaskett, Dr Ian Reid and Ian Doggett all died in the car. Another friend, Peter Gore, survived.

Robert Spencer Bernard, for the prosecution, said Miss Campbell had worked for 98 hours during the 13 days before the crash, often driving for more than 14 hours a day. On May 31 last year she had

set off from Ipswich for Totton, Hampshire, at 2.10am. The crash happened at Iwer, Buckinghamshire, at about 4.20am as the men returned to Newbury, Berkshire, from a night in London.

Mr Spencer Bernard said that afterwards police were unable to find a tachograph record of Miss Campbell's journey. "Another lorry driver stopped his vehicle and went back to comfort her because he knew her. She told him she had taken the tachograph chart out of the vehicle, ripped it up and put it in her pocket."

Mr Spencer Bernard said Miss Campbell had driven longer hours than legally permitted. "She was clearly not alert and may well have dozed off," he said.

Miss Campbell, of Chelmsford, Essex, denies causing death by dangerous driving and perverting the course of justice. The case continues.

Clergy take liberal view of homosexuals

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S clergy are far more liberal about the age of consent and homosexual sex than their congregations, according to a survey published yesterday.

Forty per cent of churchgoers wanted the age of consent for women to be raised from 16 to 18 compared with 26 per cent of ministers and priests. Ministers were more than twice as likely to think that intimate relations with someone of the same sex was acceptable than their congregations. The study showed that 15 per cent of clergy thought homosexual sex was acceptable compared with 7 per cent of their flock. The study also

suggests that clergymen drink little but often compared with churchgoers and non churchgoers. It found that ministers were twice as likely to drink alcohol at least once a week as members of their congregation, but clergy drank seven pints of beer or cider a month on average compared with nine for churchgoers and 19 for non churchgoers.

Almost 60 per cent of the clergy listened to BBC Radio 4 compared with 37 per cent of their congregation, but while 52 per cent of churchgoers watched television soap operas, only 12 per cent of clergy did so. Only 3 per cent of clergy watched game shows and *The Times* was the most often-read newspaper.

The findings are based on a survey by

the Christian Research Association answered by 470 ministers, 1,500 church members, 180 non churchgoers and about 490 clients of an insurance company.

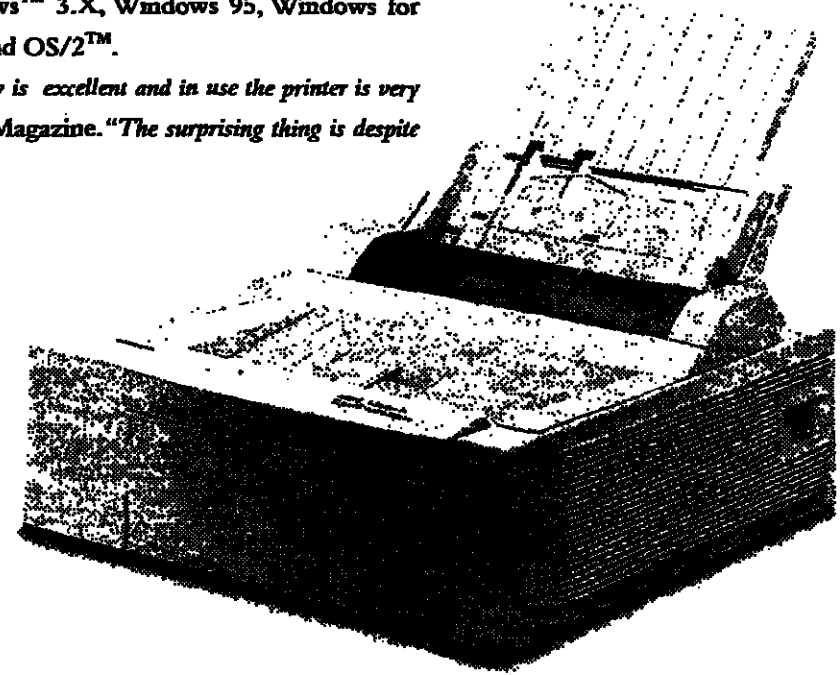
□ The High Court has been asked to intervene in a dispute between a Church of England diocese and parishioners opposed to women priests who say they are wrongly being denied a full-time vicar.

The traditionalist parochial church council of St Luke's in Kingston upon Thames was given permission yesterday to seek a judicial review of a decision by the Rt Rev Roy Williamson, the Bishop of Southwark, to withdraw financial support for an incumbent priest.

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The road to environmental improvement. It's never ending.

Every day at B&Q we learn how we can improve our environmental performance. But we find the more we learn, there's even more we need to learn.

It's like travelling a desert road, no matter how far you drive, the horizon seems as far away as ever.

When we set out in 1990, the issues that faced us seemed almost overwhelming in their scope and size. So we decided our best approach would be to research the issues that affected our business, list the priorities and formulate a policy and action plan for each one, so we could reduce our impact on the environment.

We knew we couldn't create quick-win solutions but we did promise continuous improvement on a long term scale.

Since our last update in September 1994, we can report many achievements, but we have identified other issues which need to be assessed and acted upon.

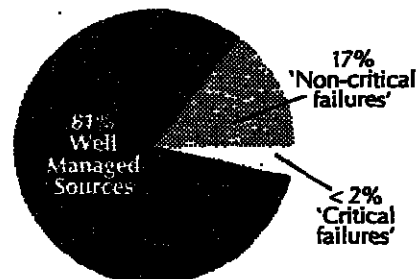
Progress made: the timber story



In 1991, nine out of ten of our suppliers could not or would not tell us where the timber they used came from. Yet half of them said that their timber came from sustainable sources. It meant we had to find out for ourselves.

By the end of 1993 we had identified all the sources of our timber products but also in 1991 we were the first retailer to sign up to the World Fund for Nature's timber target – we said, 'We will only buy timber products sourced from well managed forests from the end of 1995'.

It's a target we are confident that we are close to hitting. It has meant visiting suppliers and forests in 20 countries, repeatedly surveying over 100 suppliers and taking over 800 man days to scrutinise every timber product and its supply chain – an enormously complex process.



November 1995

The chart shows that at the time of going to press 81% of our timber products come from well managed sources. 17% is designated 'non-critical failures' – we expect to solve any outstanding problems by

the end of the year. And currently, fewer than 2% are 'critical failures' and therefore we may have to seek alternative sources.

Even if B&Q is confident that all its timber comes from well managed sources, we need to go one step further for our customers. We have embarked on a programme to ensure that all timber products come from independently certified well managed forests by the end of 1999. Three product ranges – rubberwood doors, parquet flooring and red hardwood mouldings – have already been independently certified and there are ten other product ranges currently going through the process.

Below is a table which shows where all our timber comes from.

Year of Timber Audit		
	1993	1994
Total timber usage by B&Q's products	259,000 m ³	283,268 m ³ (an increase of 8.7%)
% of timber by volume traced to forest level	39%	52.6%
% of timber by volume traced to a named processing mill	39%	45.6%
% traced to only a regional level within a country	0.23%	0.9%
% traced to only a country level only	1.41%	0.9%
Number of countries supplying timber	41	50
% of the timber originating in the UK	52%	54%
% of timber from the temperate forests	92%	91.6%
Commonest species used	Conifers at 84%	Conifers at 85.5%
Most common tropical timber used	Rubberwood from 3 different Far Eastern countries at 1.5% of the total volume	Rubberwood from 5 different Far Eastern countries at 2.1% of the total volume

Local charcoal

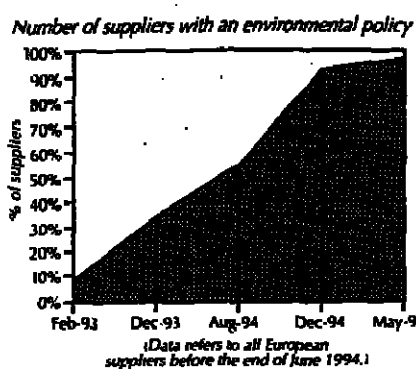
This year, working with the Bio-Regional Charcoal Group, 30 B&Q stores have been stocking charcoal produced from their local woods. It has helped to create a new UK industry and stimulate an ecological and economic revival of the UK's neglected woodland resource. By next season we are confident that the local charcoal (which will be stocked in about 120 stores) and all our other charcoal sources, will be independently certified.

Not just timber

Whilst we have treated timber as a priority area, all 40,000 products we sell have an environmental impact. We have continued to work with all of our 500 suppliers to ensure that they are fully aware of their products' life cycles and have the action plans to reduce their impact.

The supply chain

Our target was that by the end of last November all suppliers had to demonstrate a detailed awareness of the issues and be committed to reducing their impact. By



November 1994 94% complied with our target and those that didn't have now met our standards or no longer supply B&Q.

Having reached the point where all our suppliers had an environmental policy, the next step was to maintain the momentum and ensure that real improvements were being made.

QUEST

QUALITY, ETHICS, SAFETY AND TREATMENT

Last July we introduced QUEST. A scheme that measures suppliers on both their quality and environmental performance. We believe that product quality and environmental issues both contribute towards our main objective – customer satisfaction. Suppliers are now measured on ten principles and are graded on their published policy, their actions, their involvement in international supply chains*, on all aspects of packaging and their performance on timber.* (*where applicable).

New standards

QUEST is still in its infancy but by next year each supplier will be given a classification. Based on the quality and environmental criteria, it will range from 'exceptional supplier' to 'problem supplier'. 'Problem' and 'poor' suppliers will not have new products stocked until they have resolved the issues.

International supply chains

We have been concerned about high profile issues such as timber and peat but when we visited factories of suppliers in developing countries, we realised we had other issues to deal with. In many factories working conditions were poor and it's hard to justify concerns about insects in a peat bog if the people making our products are working in potentially hazardous conditions.

Last year we reported on our work in developing nations, including our involvement in a brassware factory in India, to improve health and safety conditions.

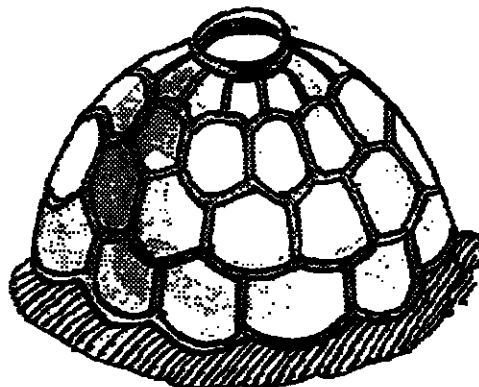
This year we have worked with our machine-woven rug supplier to investigate their manufacture in India. We thought the issue would be child labour but we learned from many sources that child labour is generally confined to hand knotted rug production. Nevertheless, there were other issues such as the dying of cotton yarns – using caustic soda,

hydrogen peroxide and dyes – to focus our attention. A range of improvements, including the installation of a water filtration unit, were implemented once B&Q had made a long term commitment to the manufacturer's product.

Room for improvement

Other potential problems have been identified but still need attention. An example is capiz lampshades from the Philippines. They use capiz shells which come from free-living scallops living in sandy sea floors. Despite the legal regulations, illegal collection is not unknown. The quality of wiring at the factory, the lack of protective clothing and the use of diluted hydrochloric acid and lead solder also cause concern.

But simply ceasing trade with this factory would mean economic problems for the workers as well as the owner, so we will be making deeper investigations into capiz with a view to making realistic improvements.



Sometimes the magnitude of the problem is just too great. We visited a factory in India which makes hinges where we found conditions very poor. Potentially hazardous use of chemicals, untreated waste water, unacceptably high noise levels and incomprehensible safety warnings led us to the reluctant conclusion that we had little chance of improving conditions. We decided to transfer our business to a factory with better standards.

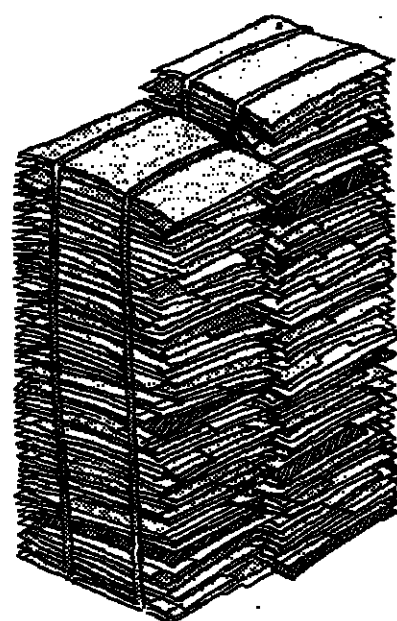
Even though we have a policy which sets out criteria for suppliers sourcing from developing nations; have visited many production facilities in these countries and have worked with suppliers to achieve some improvements, we know we have much more to do.

In the future we will continue to devote resources to ensure we find out more about working conditions in all these factories and try to improve them where feasible.

Keeping our own house in order

We have been making progress in our own operations. One of our most exciting challenges is our 'zero' waste project. Working with 12 of our stores in a pilot scheme, we are aiming to reuse and reduce one store's waste to zero and the remainder to 75%. It's a very ambitious target and even if we get close to it, we will have made a significant achievement.

Through recycling cardboard, for example, we can save up to £400,000 by not putting the cardboard into general waste skips,



and we can create revenue of an additional £400,000 by baling it up and selling it in large volumes. Proving that reducing the environmental impact of our business can sometimes save money.

Customer choice

Most of us know the benefits of insulating our houses, installing radiator flow valves and stopping dripping taps but changing our buying habits can also help.

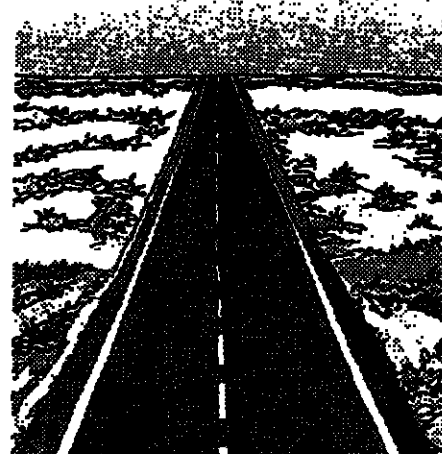
Why not buy energy efficient light bulbs, peat-free composts and water-based paints?

B&Q as a business is led by customer demand – if customers ask for environmentally sound alternatives, it will change our own buying patterns?

Shades of green

So, is B&Q any greener than when we started our environmental programme five years ago? Yes. Work with our suppliers, work on timber and peat and in developing nations, has definitely helped reduce the impact of B&Q upon the environment.

But, even though we've come a few miles down the road, we know that the horizon is going to remain tantalisingly distant for many years to come.



B&Q has detailed its environmental policy and action plan in its second environmental review, 'How Green is My Front Door?'

For a free copy, please fill in this coupon and send it with a self addressed envelope (at least 21cm x 22cm) to: Dr. Alan Knight, B&Q plc, 1 Hampshire Corporate Park, Chancellors Ford, Eastleigh, Hants, SO53 3YX.

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B&Q

Reporting on our impact on the environment.

Robbers who shot guard jailed

Ferry deaths trial

Hacking charges

Doctor reinstated

Further remarks

CORRECTIONS

In an article on the 100th anniversary of the birth of the poet T.S. Eliot, the Times reported that the poet was born in 1898. This is incorrect. He was born in 1898.

COLLECT 30 YEARS OF THE TIMES FOR AN 80-DAY TRIP

Win a cruise the Adriatic

The Times and The Sunday Times are offering a prize of a 30-day cruise on the Adriatic Sea. The prize includes accommodation, food, drink, and entertainment for two people. To enter, simply fill in the coupon and send it to the prize fund.

DATE OF DEPARTURE: 1st November 1995

HOW TO WIN: Fill in the coupon and send it to the prize fund.

SWA HELL

NEWS IN BRIEF

Robbers who shot guard jailed

Two men have been given long sentences for a robbery at an Iceland store a year ago in which a security guard was deliberately shot. Christopher Bulbrook, 40, of Bermondsey, south London, and Anthony Keegan, 41, who was on the run from jail — were sentenced to 15 and 18 years respectively. Their victim, Andrew Wallis, 44, was at the Old Bailey to see them sentenced as part of his therapy but could not face the ordeal. The men admitted robbery and firearms offences and Keegan admitted wounding.

Ferry deaths trial

Four companies were committed for Crown Court trial by Magistrate Magistrate yesterday in connection with six deaths when a ferry walkway in Ramsgate, Kent, collapsed last year. Port Ramsgate Ltd, Lloyd's Register of Shipping, FEAB and FKAB are charged with failing to ensure passenger safety.

Hacking charges

Richard Pryce, 48, of Colindale, northwest London, who is accused of hacking into US defence computers from his bedroom, was released on unconditional bail by Bow Street magistrates yesterday and the case adjourned until December 18. He did not enter a plea to 12 specimen charges.

Doctor reinstated

Dr Arun Sinha, 41, of Cardiff, who was jailed for six months last year for trying to pervert the course of justice by lying to an inquest about a woman asthmatic sufferer to whom he had prescribed an unsuitable drug, has been allowed to continue practising by the General Medical Council.

Further remand

Nessan Quinnivan, 30, and Pearse McCauley, 31, were remanded in custody for a further three weeks by a Dublin court yesterday. Britain is seeking their extradition for alleged conspiracy to murder, causing explosions, escaping from lawful custody and malicious wounding.

CORRECTIONS

□ In an article (November 10) on the Ordix case it was stated that the Home Secretary had signed a public interest immunity certificate in this case in respect of various documents. Mr Howard asks us to make clear that, in doing so, he urged that the Court of Appeal should allow the fullest disclosure possible of the documents, and this was accepted by the court.

□ Radley College was the third-placed boarding school in this year's A-level league table, not Tonbridge School (report, October 11).

Theatre pays tribute to the 'colourful' Robert Stephens

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

LEADING actors, including Dame Maggie Smith and Sir John Gielgud, paid tribute yesterday to Sir Robert Stephens, one of Britain's most electrifying classical actors, who died in his sleep on Sunday night.

Sir Robert, who was hailed in the 1960s as a successor to Laurence Olivier and in the 1990s for his unforgettable Lear and Falstaff for the Royal Shakespeare Company, was 64. One of his last visitors in hospital was the Prince of Wales, with whom he had been friendly for several years. Sir John said: "I was very much struck by his work, particularly in the last two years, his Falstaff and Lear." Dame Maggie, who was married to Sir Robert for eight years, said: "Robert was a colourful if complicated character and a very, very fine actor. Although he had been very ill, I was very saddened to hear of his death."

Sir Peter Hall, who directed him at the National Theatre, said: "Robert Stephens was one of the great actors of his generation and yet his greatness was almost undecorated until very recently when he amazed and delighted us with Falstaff and King Lear. Theatre people will always be reminded that great talent is often a curse as well as a blessing."

Adrian Noble, the RSC artistic director, lamented that "a great light has gone out". He added: "When Robert was on form he burnt brighter than almost any other actor I know. He lit up the stage with his extraordinary physical and vocal energy which belied his weak frame and body wracked by illness and abuse."

The playwright Ronald Harwood said: "I think he was one of the great actors of his generation, with an extraordinary range. The tradition he represented of the full-blooded actor is, alas, dying out. He will be sorely missed."

Sir Robert, who died in the Royal Free Hospital, north London, had a liver and kidney transplant last year, the consequences of a life of hard-living and heavy drinking. He once noted, however:



Sir Robert: he lived hard and drank heavily

"I wasn't an alcoholic, just an habitual drinker." Three years ago, after a bad reaction to a blood transfusion, he was given a 20 per cent chance of survival.

His family, including three of his four children, were at his bedside when he died. His fourth wife, Patricia, and his children expressed their thanks for the many messages of support.

Sir Robert, who was knighted last year, was born to

a mother who worked as a cleaner and a father who made his way from a labourer to a quantity surveyor. His father, he once recalled, wanted him to become a plumber or a paper hanger.

Sir Robert was at the peak of his powers in the 1960s and early 1970s during his marriage to Dame Maggie, his third wife, with whom he had two sons. They were the golden couple of the theatre, but they quarrelled. Apart from his heavy drinking bouts, he was having affairs: he once admitted to having had 20 lovers during each of his four marriages.

It was said that he wasted his talent in bit-parts on film and television. But he made a stunning comeback in recent years. In 1991 he was judged by many critics to be the definitive Falstaff and was named Best Actor of the Year in the 1992 Olivier Awards. A year later his Lear won him further awards, including the 1993 Globe as best Shakespearean actor.

At the family's request, the funeral will be private.

Obituary, page 19



Faith Brown mourning her fellow comedian yesterday



Ken Ives: widower

Thousands at funeral of Marti Caine

THOUSANDS of mourners joined showbusiness celebrities at Sheffield Cathedral yesterday to pay their last respects to the comedian Marti Caine. About 3,000 people who could not get into the 1,000-seat cathedral stood outside to listen to the funeral service for Miss Caine, who died last week from cancer.

Entertainers including Cannon and Ball, Jim Davidson and Faith Brown heard the Very Rev Michael Sadgrove pay tribute to Miss Caine's courage. "She was a brilliant performer but she did not pretend when it came to the last act of this particular drama," he said.

Hyacinth wins bucket of praise in America

By JOHN YOUNG

HYACINTH BUCKET, celebrated snob and henpecker, has become a cult favourite on American television.

The star of *Keeping Up Appearances*, played by Patricia Routledge, has delighted American viewers and confirmed their suspicion that British society is full of such creatures.

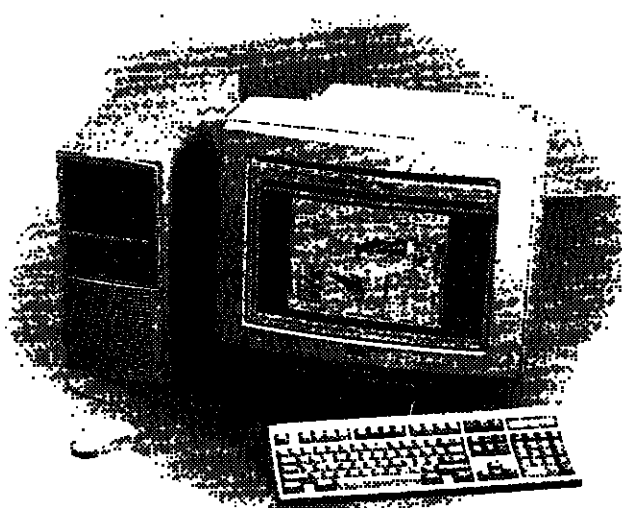
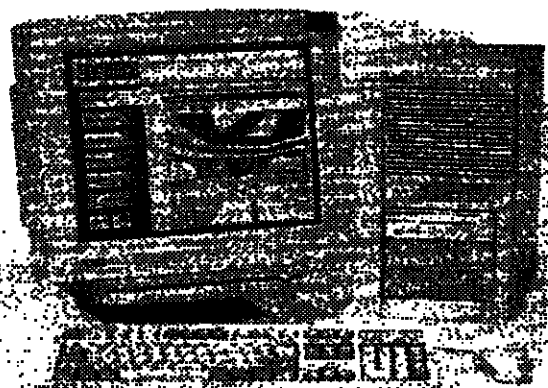
Viewers in New England voted *Keeping Up Appearances* their favourite programme and Mrs Bucket — pronounced, of course, Bouquet — their favourite character. The show is broadcast on Public Service Television.

American women are said to mimic the star's catchphrase when they pick up the telephone: "The Bouquet residence, Lady of the House speaking."

But Miss Routledge, who started in the role in 1990, is said to be anxious to return to serious theatre. Roy Clarke, who wrote the scripts, said yesterday that he would love to write another series. "But it's not up to me. I wish it was."

The BBC, which wants Routledge to continue in the role, said that nothing was planned for the next year because she was too busy.

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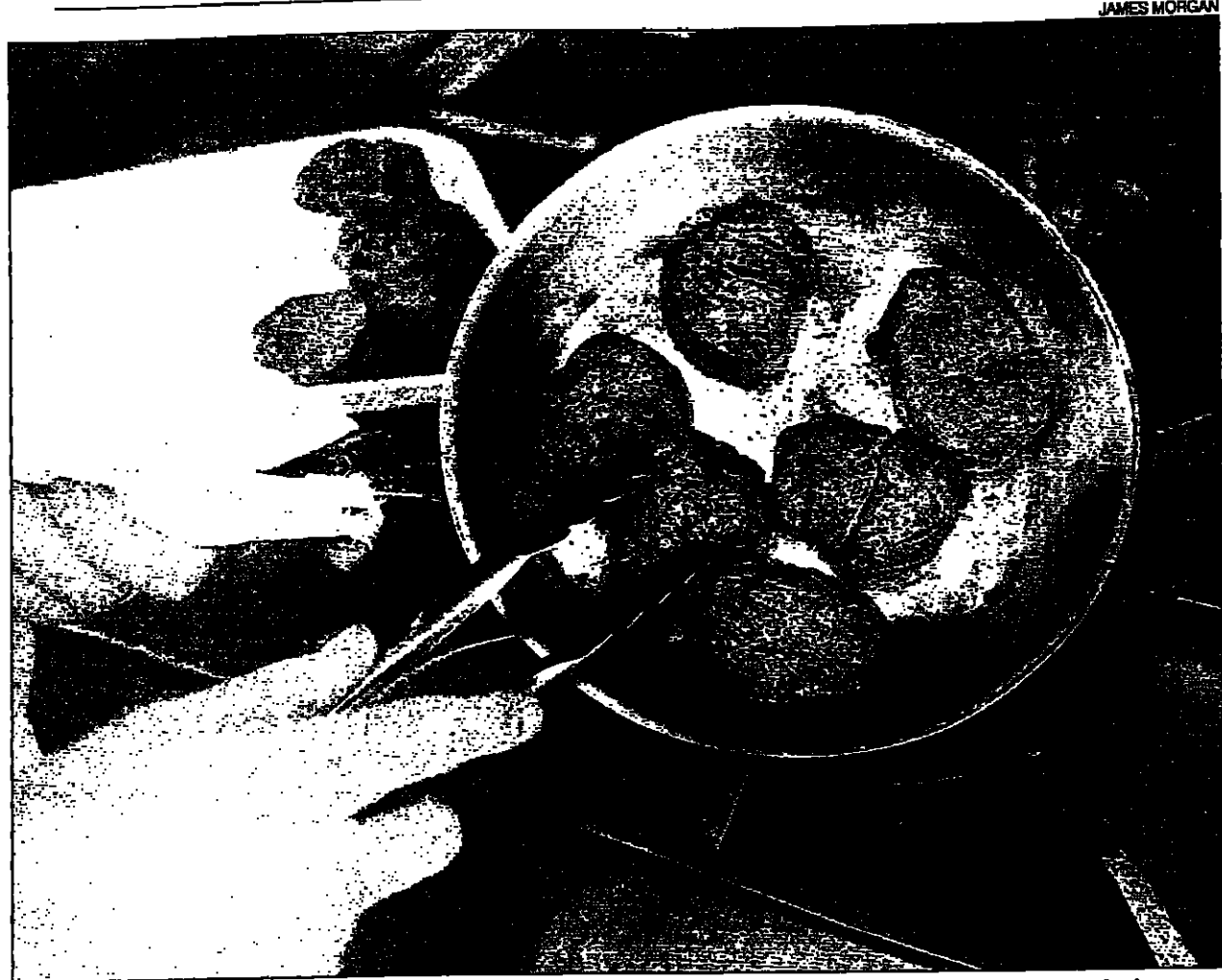
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Meat trade says safeguards on 'mad cow' disease are working and accuses media of exaggerating risk



Fillet steak on the menu at Chez Nico in London yesterday: Nico Ladenis says diners will accept no substitute

Stores seek to calm public after new BSE claims

By Robin Young

BUTCHERS and supermarkets moved to reassure the public yesterday about the precautions they take to ensure beef from BSE-infected cows does not reach their shelves. A television programme claimed last night that hundreds of cows infected with "mad cow" disease are being eaten in Britain each week.

Supermarket chains were quick to point out that they could trace the beef they sold back to the farm that had produced it and insisted that their stock came from herds which were BSE-free. But while those involved in the meat trade insist that public concerns about BSE are exaggerated by the media, they admit that there is no way of being certain that the meat they sell does not come from animals incubating BSE.

Scientists told *Granada Television's World in Action* that 600 cows incubating BSE

— but not showing symptoms — are being slaughtered for consumption each week in Britain. The Ministry of Agriculture says that there is no risk to humans because all organs capable of carrying the disease are removed at the abattoir.

The meat traders point out that no one has yet proved that BSE can be transmitted to humans and that statistics show that the incidence of Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, the human equivalent of BSE, is just as high among vegetarians and in countries that are BSE-free.

The supermarket chains emphasise that their technologists make frequent visits to plants and abattoirs to ensure that their specifications are minutely adhered to. They say that they brief staff in their stores to cope with questions from the public, but that, despite a BBC poll finding that a quarter of the population claims to have been deterred from eating beef by fear of BSE, the public never ex-

presses such concerns in shops.

Butchers also argue that people who abstain from eating meat, especially young women, run a greater risk of suffering from iron deficiency and anaemia, the incidence of which, they say, far outweighs the tiny numbers of CJD cases reported each year.

Those in the trade say that people likeliest to eat BSE-infected meat are those eating cheap meat products from cut-price caterers and discount outlets. Even then, they maintain, there is no proven risk.

The Meat and Livestock Commission said yesterday that consumption of beef had fallen by 19 per cent since 1986, when 1.2 million tonnes were eaten, compared with 921,000 tonnes last year.

However, one supermarket admitted that while it could trace all its meat back to a farm, that might not be a safeguard. Richard Sadler, head of meat buying for Waitrose, said: "Unless the animals are born, raised and finished on one farm, absolute traceability is virtually impossible. Even if you can trace the animals back, they could still be sub-clinical cases."

"There is no test for diagnosing the disease in live animals. We ask our store staff to pass back queries from the public

to be dealt with centrally, but even the robust coverage in recent weeks has not caused much flurry of activity."

Safeway said: "The last time there was a television broadcast about BSE we sent a briefing to our butchers so that they would be able to answer any questions. There was not a single customer inquiry in any of our 365 stores following that programme."

A spokeswoman for Tesco said: "We have controls in place and are fully confident they ensure that no meat from any diseased animal finds its way on to our shelves."

Gordon Hepburn, of the Q Guild of Butchers, said: "People are apprehensive about BSE but it is because they are misinformed. It is a fact that the first person diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease was a vegetarian."

Nico Ladenis, three-star Michelin chef of Chez Nico in central London, said: "I am not a chemist or a pathologist, so I would never be able to ensure that my beef was entirely safe. I have got good suppliers and I rely on them. You have to take a chance. My restaurants still sell a lot of beef. I was toying with the idea of substituting venison, but we have customers who simply demand to eat beef."

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British Midland

Worried scientists tell their families to keep off beef

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

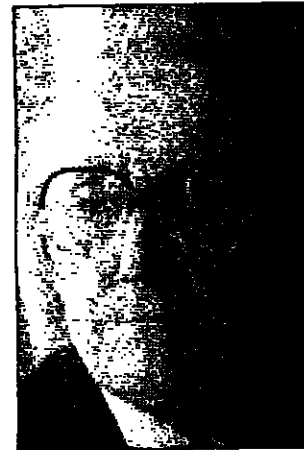
LEADING brain scientists and vets said yesterday that they were eating less beef because of fears that "mad cow" disease could pass to humans. Some said they had stopped eating beef or had advised their children to do so.

They called on the Government to reduce the risk to humans from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) by imposing tougher controls on the parts of carcasses deemed fit to eat.

Professor Sir Bernard Tomlinson, the neuropathologist who advised the Government on the closure of London hospitals, said he was no longer eating products likely to contain beef offal, such as meat pies, pâtés and consommé. "I think the Government is taking an unjustified risk in allowing brain and other offals from calves under the age of six months to be allowed into food."

Under Ministry of Agriculture rules, all brain, spinal cord, spleen, thymus, tonsils and intestines must be removed from cattle carcasses at the abattoir and destroyed. Government scientists say these are the only organs capable of being infected.

The purpose of the controls is to stop meat entering the food chain from animals that may be incubating BSE without showing any outward symptoms. However, the ban does not fully apply to calves under six months because



Tomlinson: has stopped eating offal products

they are deemed to be too young to be carrying BSE.

Sir Bernard said three factors had made him more cautious: a rise in cases of Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease (CJD), the human equivalent of BSE; the disproportionate number of farmers who had died of CJD in the past three years; and the recent deaths of teenagers from CJD.

Alan Hitchens, a veterinary surgeon with a practice in London, said: "We know the agent causing BSE has crossed the species barrier in animals. If it is capable of mutating to move from sheep to cattle, there must be a possibility it could pass the species barrier into man."

Jeff Almond, a microbiologist at Reading University, said: "The worrying thing with BSE is that there is no test in live animals to detect the disease."

Poor care 'puts hip patients at risk'

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

ELDERLY patients who fracture their hips are ten times more likely to end up in residential care if they are treated in some hospitals rather than others. At least 57,000 people fracture their hips each year, mostly in falls, but their recovery is hindered by inadequate care, according to a study by the Audit Commission, the NHS watchdog.

One in ten patients is operated on by unsupervised junior doctors with only two or three years' experience. The Royal College of Physicians recommends that the operation, which involves fixing the fracture with screws and plates, should be performed by experienced doctors.

The report, based on a study of 400 patients in nine hospitals, says the failure to co-ordinate care throughout the hospital stay and afterwards is the chief reason why many people are left disabled. The proportion going into institutional care ranges from 4 per cent to 40 per cent, indicating that "hospitals are adopting different approaches".

More than a third of patients waited more than four hours in casualty and some

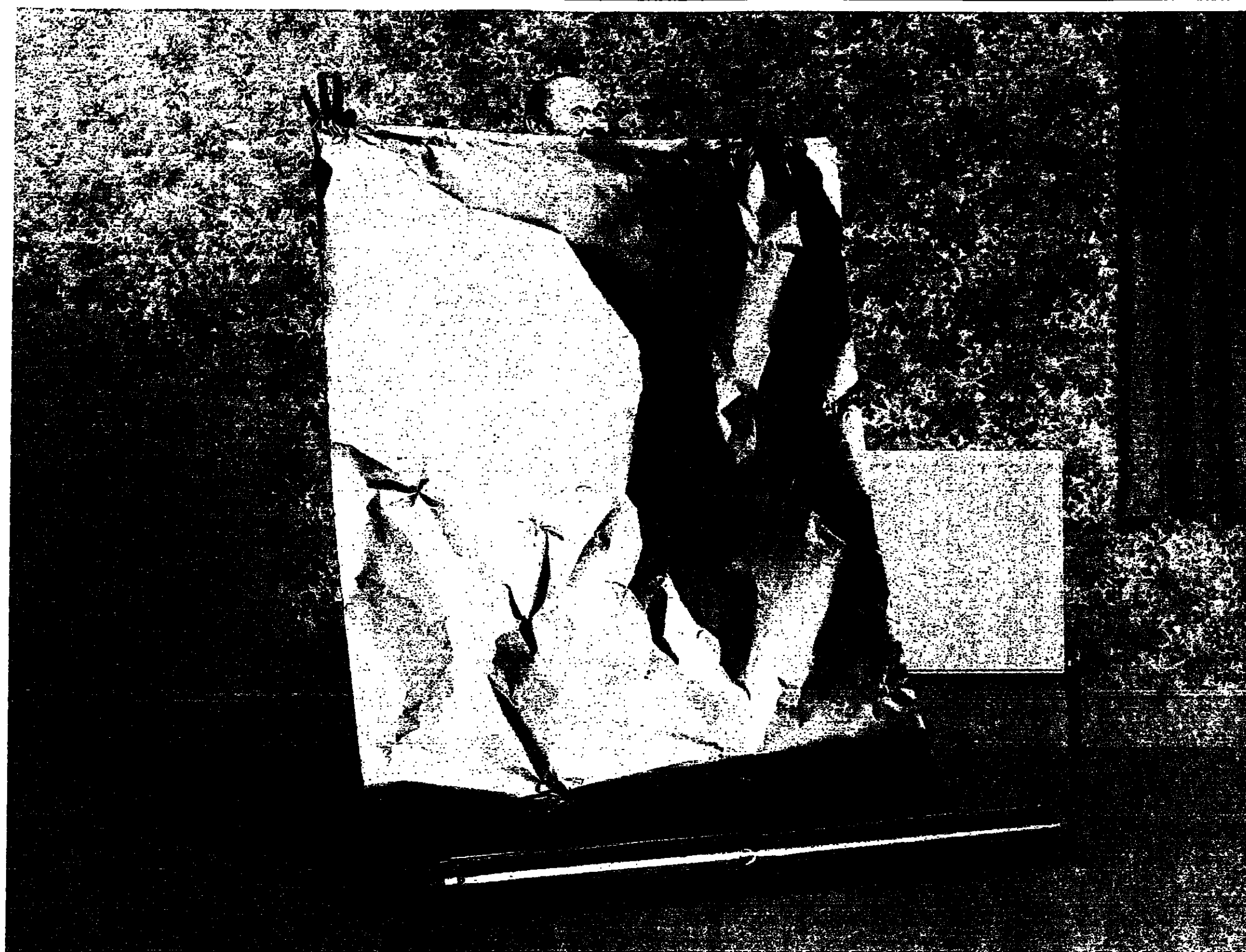
waited more than ten hours. Many faced a delay of over 24 hours for their operation, despite the fact that such delays are linked with an increased risk of death.

The report, *United They Stand*, says patients make far better progress when treated in hospitals with strong links between the orthopaedic and geriatric departments, so their medical needs are tended as well as surgical needs.

Andrew Foster, controller of the Audit Commission, said: "Many patients have horror stories to tell. If it is done well it [a hip operation] massively improves the quality of life but elderly people are all too often not getting a good deal."

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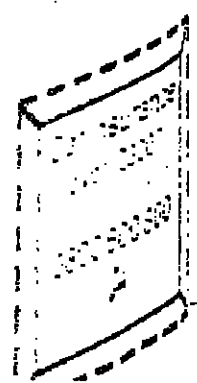
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...our care 'puts hip
...patients at risk'



Lilley wins battle to keep benefit for single parents

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

PETER LILLEY has fought off a Treasury attempt to abolish benefits for single parents in contentious legislation that risked being voted down in the Commons.

The Queen's Speech tomorrow will herald a dozen main Bills outlining the Government's programme till the next election, but it will not include a Social Security Bill. The legislative programme is expected, however, to include measures to sell off government debt by privatising the £1 billion student loan and the £1 billion Housing Corporation loan, which could give Kenneth Clarke an extra £2 billion for tax cuts in the Budget.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, has been holding talks with financial institutions to gauge their interest in taking on some of the risk over the past few months. But the private sector appears to be more keen on buying loans from the Housing Corporation, where negotiations are more advanced.

William Waldegrave, the Secretary to the Treasury, has been putting pressure on Mr Lilley to abolish lone parent benefit, the £30 weekly payment given to all single mothers. But, in a letter to Mr Waldegrave that was leaked last week, Mr Lilley argued fiercely that such a move would require primary legislation, which might not get through the House while the Government had such a small majority. Mr Lilley is instead

expected to freeze lone parent benefit and the lone parent premium, a £5.20 weekly payment for single mothers on income support. He may also abolish the lone parent premium for new claimants, which could be done without primary legislation.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has won his battle against the Tory Right for the reintroduction of the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill — albeit in an amended form — which will now be merged with the Divorce Law Reform Bill. The combined Bill is likely to attract a variety of amendments, but Lord Mackay has made clear that he is ready to accept some of the proposed changes.

Michael Howard's Bill to clamp down on applications for asylum to reduce the number of illegal immigrants is expected to prove the most contentious legislation and could have difficulty getting through both Houses. Measures to curb benefits for asylum seekers, announced by Mr Lilley at the Tory party conference, are also expected to be included in this Bill. John Major has warned ministers against using the measures to exploit racial prejudice for electoral gain.

The Home Secretary is to introduce two other Bills. One will give M15 powers to help the police in fighting organised crime and the other will change the rules on disclosure of evidence to meet

police concerns that the present arrangements favour the defence.

The Education Secretary also has two main Bills, one to introduce vouchers for nursery schools and the other to extend the borrowing powers of grant-maintained schools.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, will introduce a Broadcasting Bill to relax the rules on cross-media ownership, set up digital television and sell the BBC's transmission services.

Under the proposals, to be enacted in January 1997, national newspaper groups that have less than 20 per cent of total circulation will be allowed up to two TV licences.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, is expected to introduce a comprehensive Housing Bill, which will increase the right to buy for Housing Association tenants and will include measures to help the homeless.

The new legislative programme will run over the last full parliamentary session before the general election. One of the most contentious plans will be the privatisation of the nuclear power industry. This does not require legislation because it had already been allowed for in a previous Bill on electricity privatisation, but Labour will mount a vigorous campaign against the proposal and is expected to force a Commons vote on it.



Lord Mackay, who is fighting to save his family and divorce law reforms

Major warned of backbench Budget revolt

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR was warned last night that Tory MPs may revolt if the Budget contains no measures to boost the housing market.

Ditching the policy of promoting home ownership would be "economic betrayal and political suicide", Mr Major and his Cabinet were told in a letter from Nicholas Winterton, Tory MP for Macclesfield and chairman of the Manufacturing and Construction Industries Alliance.

Help for housing was "essential to the Government's electoral prospects" and some backbenchers would "have great difficulty in justifying support for any Budget which did not deliver a package of invigorating measures to deal with the housing malaise which has so sapped consumer confidence", the MP said.

Mr Winterton has a reputation for outspokenness but his remarks reflect growing demand across the party for Budget help for the housing market, and alarm at what is seen as an attempt by the Treasury to rule it out.

The Times disclosed last Thursday that senior Cabinet ministers had launched a last-minute attempt to persuade Mr Clarke to help homebuyers. Although a cut in interest rates would be favoured, he is being urged to guarantee that mortgage interest tax relief will not be cut again, and even to reverse the reductions of the past two

years. MPs want special measures to help first-time buyers.

Since then there have been obvious attempts to play down the prospects of aid on November 28, with some officials quoted as saying that the market is in such a parlous state that government action could not help it.

Mr Winterton said this was a "counsel of despair" and accused the Government of abandoning supporters that had been encouraged to join the property-owning democracy. "The housing market and homeowners have paid a disproportionately high price for economic mistakes that were made in the past, and I believe we are both honour-bound and politically required to deliver in the Budget a package of measures that will give this vital sector of the economy the boost that it requires."



Winterton: seeks help for housing market

CBI embrace presages marriage of convenience

Tony Blair is skilled at courting the Establishment: whether in the "great and good" reaches of public life, the City and, yesterday, big business as represented by the CBI. In return, they admire him for his freshness and frankness, his ability to grasp issues and avoid the usual politicians' waffle — not least by comparison with his predecessors or with what is widely seen as a tired and inward looking Tory administration. But it is a love affair in the Jane Austen rather than the Michael Dobbs style, by looks and words rather than actions.

The CBI likes Mr Blair's style, but it is primarily the voice of big British corporations and manufacturing. Small companies remain more sceptical and there is wariness about Labour's ideas for restoring some union rights and its still uncertain plans for corporate and personal taxation. Mr Blair yes-

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

terday sought to offer reassurance. He has changed Labour "radically", as he claimed, not just its constitution but also its rapidly growing membership. "Old" Labour is still strongly represented in the Parliamentary Labour Party, and in the Shadow Cabinet, where the turnover of people is much slower. But, with the hard-left isolated, the running is being made by Mr Blair's allies, who now occupy most of the key shadow posts.

Labour has abandoned most of its past ideological baggage and accepted that there are constraints on what any government can do. Mr Blair said all the acceptable things about not picking winners or running business, about penal rates of taxation being gone for good and people becoming rich by their success. He offered a message

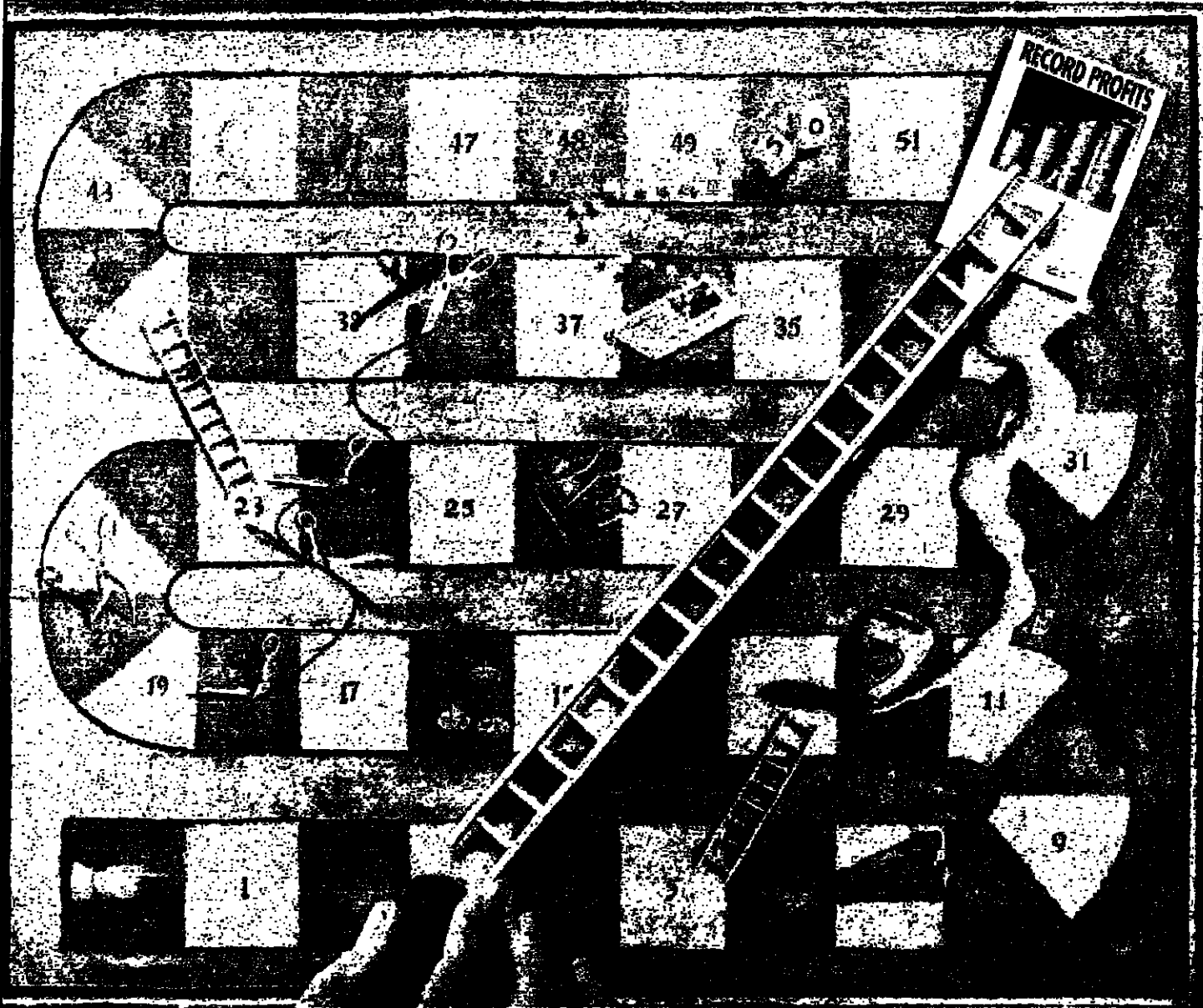
of partnership, of government as the promoter of investment and a first-class infrastructure and a better-trained workforce. Hear, hear, say Kenneth Clarke and Gillian Shephard. But, as Mr Clarke knows and the CBI yesterday complained, there is a big difference between launching a co-operative venture like the Private Finance Initiative to support public projects and generating the funds. Labour has a lot to prove about whether such partnerships would really make a difference.

The fear that Labour might be too keen to do deals with big companies was raised by Mr Blair's announcement in his party conference speech that he had reached an agreement with British Telecom about opening up the information superhighway to schools, hospitals and libraries. This smacked of corporatism at its most cosy. But, yesterday, Mr Blair stressed that BT would not get monopoly status, while Geoff Hoon, the fast-rising "new" Labour spokesman on the issue, was having talks with cable companies and providers like Ionica and Mercury to ensure that competition is free and fair.

Mr Blair addressed areas where there are clear differences. A Labour government would judge each piece of legislation under the social chapter on its merits: "I have no intention whatever of agreeing to anything and everything that emerges from the European Union." There are arguments against an empty chair policy, while proposals emerge from bodies including employers. But Britain would not have a free hand if it signed the protocol. Some decisions are by unanimity, notably on job protection and social security, but others are by qualified majority voting. On the minimum wage, he emphasised the work of the proposed low pay commission, including business, in advising on an economically desirable level. These policies may, as Mr Blair argued, "neither destroy nor build a better economy", but be about fair rules. But business is never likely to endorse them.

The warm reception for Mr Blair is the embrace of the Establishment for someone with whom the CBI believes it can do business, and probably will have to. That is a warning signal for the Tories. But I would still bet that a few of those applauding Mr Blair will end up voting for Labour.

PETER RIDDELL



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HEWLETT-PACKARD

Net tightens around Nissan heist's Mr. Big

Yard questions Marquis about involvement in Almera heist

THE MARQUIS DE BRIEVE, one of Europe's foremost art collectors, has been brought in for questioning over the multimillion pound off shore Almera heist in which 5,594 new Nissans went missing.

The Marquis is also being interrogated about his involvement in the spate of Almera disappearances that have taken place throughout Britain over the last two weeks. A spokesman for Scotland Yard told reporters that the Marquis was being 'much more co-operative' than Lord Worsingham who police arrested two days ago.

The Marquis is thought to have revealed the presence of a huge international ring of Almera abductors recruited by the notorious Mr. Big, the

mastermind behind the operation. Police released an artist's impression of Mr. Big last week and are certain that the Marquis knows of his whereabouts and true identity.

Meanwhile police are advising all new owners to remain vigilant. 'Although Nissan's highly acclaimed Anti Theft System makes the Almera almost impossible to steal, there have been several cases where the abductors posed as parking officials and simply towed the cars away.'

Nissan have assured potential purchasers that new Almeras are available from a secret location under high security guard. Any member of the public wishing for more information should call 0345 66 99 66.



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ADMIRAL

Clinton uses veto to halt stopgap government funds

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton vetoed yesterday a Republican Bill designed to forestall America's first-ever default on its debts, and pledged to veto a second Bill last night that was supposed to avert an indefinite shutdown of all non-essential government services from midnight local time.

Mr Clinton signed the first veto in a televised Oval Office ceremony just before the nation's financial markets opened. He accused the Republicans of deliberately fomenting a crisis to force him to accept an "extreme" budget that aims to eliminate the federal deficit in seven years by lopping roughly \$1,000 billion (£637 billion) from projected spending on main government programmes.

The President offered his own Bills to extend spending and borrowing — but without the Republican amendments.

He said that he would not be pressured into signing a budget that would "rob the American dream for millions of Americans," he insisted. "I am fighting it today. I will fight it tomorrow. I will fight it next week and next month. I will fight it until we get a budget that is fair to all Americans."

The White House said a five-day presidential trip to Japan, beginning on Thursday, will be cut short. The Treasury, which has hit its congressional-approved borrowing limit, meanwhile took its first emergency steps to stave off a disastrous default that would theoretically occur tomorrow when \$25 billion in payments to holders of US securities becomes due. It scheduled new securities auctions to raise the money and is preparing to borrow from two huge federal pension funds.

The Republican budget is six weeks late. The two vetoed measures were supposed to

keep the Government afloat until it is completed, but Mr Clinton said the Republicans had attached conditions that comprised a "back-door effort" to ram through some of their "most objectionable" budget proposals. In particular, he cited a 25 per cent increase in premiums for Medicare, the popular health insurance programme for the elderly.

Hopes of a last-minute resolution were slim. Mr Clinton offered an eleventh-hour meeting with the Republicans if they dropped the Medicare provision but Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, said Republicans would meet the President unconditionally or not at all.

Mr Gingrich offered to negotiate all aspects of the budget plan if Mr Clinton agreed in principle to balance the



Gingrich: wants budget balanced in seven years

budget in seven years, but the President rejected Republican "pressure tactics".

The Speaker later told reporters: "We hope at some point the President will decide to talk with us and have a discussion about how to get this solved. I think it's very unfortunate that he is hiding

and refusing to discuss with us what would keep the Government open."

Without a stopgap funding Bill, the Government was due to run out of operating funds at midnight and 800,000 of the 2.1 million federal workers would be sent home when they report for work this morning. All national parks, monuments and museums would be closed, new social security claims would not be processed, new passports and visas would not be issued and benefits would not be paid to war veterans.

Both sides have powerful electoral motives for standing firm. Mr Clinton wants to dispel his image as a man without convictions before next year's presidential election and portray himself as a champion of popular government programmes. The Republicans believe they would be crucified if they reneged on their solemn pledge during last year's congressional elections to balance the budget by 2002.

Mr Clinton has proposed balancing the budget over ten years through much smaller spending cuts and eliminating most of the \$245 billion in tax breaks in the Republican plan. This was a "critical moment of decision" for America, he said. "Our country has to choose between two very different options, two very different visions and paths to the 21st century."

Opinion polls suggest a majority of Americans back his more moderate plan, but fail to understand why the Government should have to shut down while the White House and Republicans resolve their dispute. "If this seems ridiculous it is — to everyone but the politicians at the gate," declared an editorial in *USA Today*.



President Clinton vetoes the temporary borrowing Bill in the Oval Office yesterday. He has accused Republicans of engineering a budget crisis to further their spending priorities. The impasse resulted in non-essential government services being shut down from midnight last night

Fortune favours President in 1996 race

PRESIDENT Clinton is surely America's luckiest politician. A year ago his presidency seemed beyond revival. Today, in the wake of General Colin Powell's decision not to seek nomination, he is odds-on favourite to become the first Democratic President since Franklin Roosevelt to win two elections — both by default.



America faces a presidential campaign of attrition and a vote for the lesser of two evils, Martin Fletcher writes

This time, in spite of Mr Clinton's obvious vulnerability, one leading Republican after another has opted out. The list includes Jack Keiz, William Bennett, Richard Cheney, Dan Quayle, James Baker, various governors and now the immensely popular General Powell, leaving the ageing and uninspiring Robert Dole as Mr Clinton's almost certain opponent.

Two months of "Powellmania" have further diminished Mr Dole. The general's attraction was far greater than the sum of his stands — or lack of them — on the issues of the day. He exuded leadership, authenticity, moral authority and a sense that he knew who he was and what

he believed in. He inspired genuine enthusiasm in a jaded electorate. In contrast, Mr Dole appears obsessed with positioning rather than principle and excites nobody.

He abandoned his church when conservatives complained of the minister's liberalism, read from cue cards when explaining during a New Hampshire debate why he wanted the presidency, and seems to think beliefs can be swapped like clothes.

Last summer he solemnly informed an audience of Republican activists: "I'm willing to be another Ronald Reagan if that's what you want." That was indeed what they wanted.

Mr Dole dutifully signed an

anti-tax pledge that he had rejected in 1988, dropped his support for gun controls and affirmative action programmes, attacked Hollywood and, after 34 years in Washington, became an overnight advocate of devolving all possible powers to the individual states.

He returned a \$1,000 (£630) campaign donation from a gay Republican group lest he offend the religious Right, then reversed his decision when he ran into more flak than he would have if he had kept it.

As Senate leader Mr Dole has no trouble raising funds but, like Mr Clinton, he appears to lack core convictions and has no compelling message.

The other good news for Mr Clinton is that the public seems to be cooling on the "Republican revolution". A *Time* magazine poll yesterday showed that 60 per cent believed congressional Re-

publicans were going too far. The President, meanwhile, has been comprehensively re-inventing himself under the tutelage of Dick Morris, his new \$240,000-a-year political guru who spent last year ridiculing Mr Clinton to Republican clients. The President has abandoned friends, policies, the congressional Democratic Party — anything tainted by the perceived liberalism of his first two years. Now he has co-opted the most popular elements of Republicanism.

Realistically, Mr Clinton has little chance of persuading 51 per cent of Americans to vote for him. Mr Morris's aim, however, is to persuade 51 per cent to vote against Mr Dole.

A Powell candidacy promised an unusually uplifting election. Instead, America again expects a grim, negative war of attrition between two consummate political hacks followed by a vote for the lesser of two evils.

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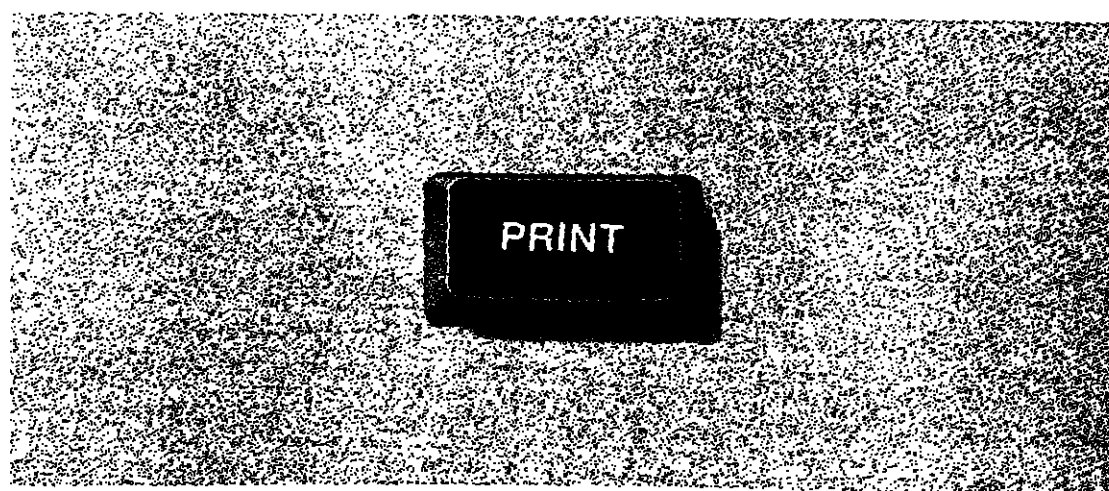
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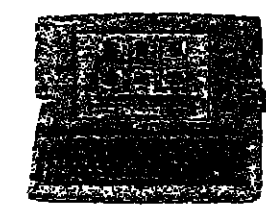


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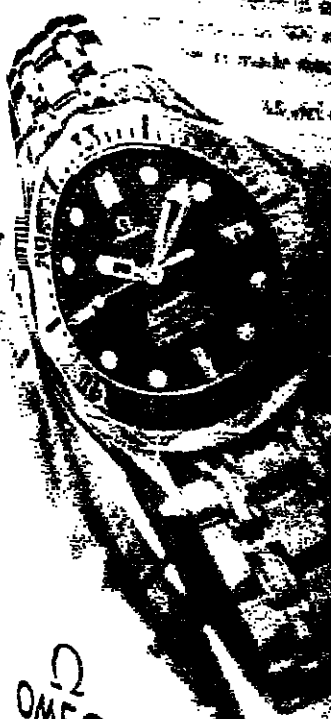
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Saudis threatened by Islamic anger over links to West

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

SHOCK waves from yesterday's Riyadh car bomb will magnify two overriding concerns preoccupying the House of Saud: the growing threat from Iran and the virulent opposition of dissident Muslim fundamentalists.

Early intelligence suggests that the bomb was linked to Iran and opposition to Saudi Arabia's defence links with the West, in particular with the United States. This will reinforce Saudi insistence, forcibly expressed last week to Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, that Iran is intent on destabilising the Gulf and exporting revolution.

Far more worrying to King Fahd, however, is the prospect that the blast was the work of Islamic militants. If it is linked to the calls by London-based dissidents to overthrow the Royal Family, the Government's worst fears may be coming true — that the opposition will replace caserties and faxes with violence.

Stability in the Gulf and the twin threats from Iran and

Iraq overwhelmingly preoccupy the Saudi Government — far more than the Arab-Israeli peace process. Prince Saud, the Foreign Minister, told Mr Rifkind that Iranian policy was still directed by hard-liners intent on subversion. He saw Tehran's hand in the export of revolution to the Gulf and North Africa, and said Iran still intended to control the Gulf waterway.

The Saudis see American military protection as essential. However, the presence of Western troops, the need for Western support during the Gulf War and the huge cost of Western arms purchases are the main targets of attacks on Saudi links with the West.

Friction between Shia Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia is long-standing, exacerbated by the annual dispute over the Haj, the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca. After the fighting instigated by Iranian militants in the Grand Mosque a few years ago, Saudi Arabia has banned political activity by Iranian pilgrims and limited

their numbers. Iran has broadcast a stream of invective against the Royal Family, which it accuses of corruption and neglect of Islam.

Western diplomats dismiss any threat to the royal house, saying that most Saudis have too much invested in the present system; that there is no "rabble" for revolutionaries to rouse or pressure for liberal reform from Saudis used to the strict Islamic system. They concede that the Government is suffering jitters, exacerbated by a massive budgetary deficit, fears about oil prices, uncertainty over the dynastic succession and the unprecedented opposition of two outspoken clerics in the central provinces, leading to riots and arrests in September 1994.

The Government has responded with decrees to rejuvenate the system. Exiled dissidents have, however, continued to harry the Government.

Leading article, page 17
Maha Azzam, page 16



Crowds welcome the arrival of Palestinian police officers in Jenin yesterday. Israeli troops pulled out at dawn, bringing to an end 28 years of occupation

Israel pulls out of West Bank city early

FROM ROSS DUNN
IN JENIN

THE West Bank city of Jenin was handed back to Palestinian control yesterday, a week earlier than scheduled to emphasise Israel's commitment to the peace process after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister.

The withdrawal of Israeli troops, ending 28 years of occupation, was greeted with gunfire and the waving of flags. Five hundred Palestinian police officers took over the former Israeli security headquarters prompting one man to scale the building's 100ft radio antenna with his nation's colours. Below him the first of thousands of curious Palestinians from the region swarmed over the barracks — some of them former inmates of the prison.

The city was handed over to fulfill an accord signed in Washington with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in September. Under the deal, Israeli troops are to withdraw from six major Arab cities on the West Bank to pave the way for the first Palestinian self-rule elections on January 20.



A new flag is raised 100ft above the city

Knesset chieftains try to calm ranks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE leaders of Israel's two main political parties met yesterday for the first time since Yitzhak Rabin's assassination in an attempt to lower the temperature of debate between Left and Right before further violence.

The 30-minute meeting between Shimon Peres, the acting Labour Prime Minister, and Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the right-wing Likud opposition, occurred before a moving Knesset memorial session for Rabin. He was killed by a right-wing Jewish fanatic opposed to the peace process in the Middle East.

Before their meeting, Presi-

dent Weizman made a televised appeal to the traumatised nation in an attempt to heal some of the divisions caused by the killing. These have been exacerbated by Leah, Rabin's eloquent widow, who has left Jews in no doubt that she blames Mr Netanyahu for stoking the fires of extremism with his anti-peace rhetoric.

"I call for unity in the ranks," said Mr Weizman, a former pilot regarded in some circles as the only figure now capable of unifying the Jewish state. "More than ever before, we must unite and hold onto each other for a common purpose — strengthening a democratic state. We must all do some soul searching about what we have said, what we will say and for what we will pray."

A West Bank rabbi, Yoel Bin-Nun, yesterday accused radical Jewish clergy of issuing a death warrant against Rabin. He said they had deemed the late Prime Minister a "pursuer" of Jews, a ruling that could be interpreted as permission to kill. So far seven people have been held over the assassination. Mr Bin-Nun is under police guard after threatening to name the rabbis.



Weizman: "all must do some soul searching"

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Unions call day of protest as Juppé weighs up new tax

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ALAIN JUPPÉ, the French Prime Minister, will introduce a new tax to pay off the vast debts incurred by the country's social security system, according to union leaders who have called for a day of protest today in opposition to planned cuts in welfare.

Before his election last May, President Chirac pledged to cut taxes and the threat of yet another levy has prompted fresh disillusionment.

"One More Tax" the *France-Soir* newspaper complained yesterday, predicting that the new levy would extract 30 billion francs (£4.3 billion) a year for the next ten years from French tax-payers.

M. Juppé will unveil his plans for reducing the 60 billion franc social security deficit tomorrow. Jacques Barrot, the new Social Affairs Minister, admitted that tax-payers would be expected to "put their hands in their pockets", but did not confirm whether a new tax would be imposed or existing levies increased.

A two-day parliamentary debate on welfare changes began yesterday amid sharp criticism of the Government from within the ruling coalition.

"The important thing is maintaining growth. Instead of reassuring markets, piling on new taxes will just frighten

them," predicted Nicolas Sarkozy, the former Budget Minister.

The Government is also expected to boost payroll levies to pay for state pensions and cut back welfare spending, particularly in the area of healthcare. Reforming welfare is seen as the cornerstone of the Government's pledge to reduce the overall deficit in line with the criteria for European monetary union.

In a small victory for the Government, unions agreed not to hold a threatened one-day strike today after meeting M. Barrot and M. Chirac. The President "has managed to soften the unions' stand", one union official said.

The Communist CGT union criticised what it called "draconian" cuts in health spending, but also agreed not to call for full strike action.

While the Government may have averted another paralysing strike, unions today will hold a day of symbolic protests, including demonstrations, staff meetings and petition drives. In Paris, the protest will culminate with a march through the Left Bank.

Union leaders broadly accept the need for reforming the welfare system, but they are divided on whether to oppose tax hikes while opposing reduction in benefits.

Administration of the wel-

fare system is shared between unions and employers' federations, and despite promises of a "rigorous overhaul", M. Chirac has reportedly given assurances to union leaders that the system's management structure will not be radically changed.

M. Juppé has promised to cut the welfare deficit by half next year and eliminate it completely by 1997.

Last week, in a bid to illustrate the Government's new taste for fiscal austerity, the Cabinet was reshuffled to force what M. Juppé insisted was a smaller, tougher team, more committed to deficit reduction and, by clear implication, taking on the unions.

Lyons: A state prosecutor asked an Appeals Court yesterday to stiffen sentences passed in the original trial of the former Mayor of Lyons, Michel Noir, a case that highlighted a decade of easy money in French politics.

Bernard Rabatel asked the court to impose suspended 18-month jail terms on Noir, Michel Mouillot, the Mayor of Cannes, and Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, a well-known television newsreader.

All three had received suspended sentences of 15 months last April for receiving gifts from funds embezzled by Noir's son-in-law, Pierre Botton. (Reuters)



The Prince of Wales waves to the crowd yesterday after being welcomed by Eberhard Diepgen, left, Mayor of Berlin, outside City Hall, on a mission to ensure that Central and Eastern Europe do not abandon market reform

Prince cloaks Potsdam offensive with a mantle of good causes

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

The Royal Family's special brand of Ostpolitik was given a new burst of energy yesterday when the Prince of Wales flew to Berlin to bring senior Western executives together with Central European politicians and civic leaders. His mission, dressed up in all manner of good works, could not be more political: to ensure that Central and East Europeans do not stray from the path of market reform.

An opinion poll conducted in Hungary for the Prince's Business Leaders' Forum shows that 73 per cent of Hungarians feel that private entrepreneurs are "looking after their own interests and not paying enough attention to their social responsibilities". About half were suspicious about foreign investment.

The Prince's session with mayors from St Petersburg, Warsaw, Prague, Budapest and Bratislava — held in Potsdam outside Berlin — was designed to break down these suspicions and set up concrete projects and sponsorship deals with Western companies.

The timing of the conference was particularly pointed: in Warsaw, President Walesa is fending off an election challenge from an ex-Communist; in Moscow, an ailing President Yeltsin is

warning of the threat from anti-Western forces. Exactly six years after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, former Communists throughout Eastern Europe have been edging closer to power and are sometimes slowing reform, sometimes merely

about 40 experts who, with Russian politicians, worked out a number of solid schemes: twinning the city's three rundown hospitals with Western ones in an effort to modernise equipment; devising a plan to produce facsimile editions of Pushkin's manuscripts; sell them to Western universities and use the money to preserve the originals; and setting up a tourist information centre. A concern with the effects of cultural tourism, tramping feet weakening ancient bridges — was also at the centre of a trip to Prague. The Prince flew a plane-load of the Great and Good to Prague to twist their arms for help in rescuing the city from the ravages of tourism, pollution and the modern world.

The Business Leaders' Forum is deploying a similar strategy in Potsdam. Under the auspices of the Prince, and discreetly prodded by his representatives in the Business Leaders' Forum, the first deals are beginning to take shape. "It's probably snobbish," said one East European participant, "but it works — the idea that the future King of England is registering your generosity works wonders, unblocks bureaucratic decision-making and unzips purses. Sometimes, at least."

“The idea that the future King of England is registering your generosity unblocks bureaucracy and unzips purses”

enriching themselves. The Prince's four-day tour is primarily to eastern Germany and Munich, but it will be capped by a quick visit to Latvia. The most dynamic part of the tour is certainly the Potsdam conference. The Prince's personal Ostpolitik depends very much on the interplay of Western and Eastern decision-makers. In St Petersburg last year, his Business Leaders' Forum took over

Trial over Berlin shootings is delayed

BY ROGER BOYES

SIX years after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, half a dozen members of the former East German Politburo were in the dock yesterday for what was billed as the most important trial since the Nuremberg hearings.

The first day lasted precisely three minutes: enough for Egon Krenz, the former East German leader, and his colleagues, to protest that they did not accept the jurisdiction of the court.

The Berlin judges will announce next Monday whether the trial can go ahead, but the defence strategy is already clear: to delay proceedings until the Constitutional Court rules on the legal validity of trying politicians for shootings on the East-West frontier.

Herr Krenz and his fellow Politburo members — the most prominent are Kurt Hager, the former propaganda chief and Günter Schabowski, the former editor of the party newspaper — are facing charges of manslaughter for not dismantling the array of automatically triggered machine-guns and anti-personnel mines along the "Death Strip" that divided East and West Germany.

In theory, the defendants could face 15 years in jail. In practice, few if any are likely to be put behind bars, since several are old and infirm. The man at the centre of the trial is 58-year-old Herr Krenz, who was briefly party leader. He has been accused of six cases of manslaughter, and has been trying to whip up international outrage about the hearings.



Krenz: did not accept court's jurisdiction

Writer's novel French success

BY BEN MACINTYRE



Makine: "I'm like the character in my book"

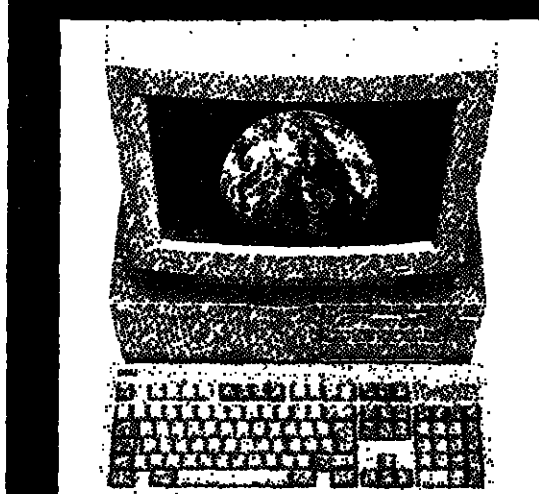
ANDREI MAKINE, the Russian-born novelist, yesterday became the first writer to win two of France's top literary awards for the same book.

Mr Makine was yesterday awarded the Prix Goncourt, France's foremost literary award, for his novel *Le Testament Français* (The French Will) just a week after he won the prestigious Médicis prize for the same work. The Goncourt jury, made up of ten leading French literary figures, has never before bestowed its prize on a book that

has already won an award. The prize, founded in 1903, is worth just 50 francs but can increase sales of the chosen title by up to half a million copies. *Le Testament Français* tells the story of a boy caught between the Russian and French cultures.

Mr Makine, 38, came to France eight years ago and his novel is written in French although he describes himself like the character in his novel, caught between two countries: "I'm a refugee from a country that doesn't exist anymore."

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Beaujolais no longer flavour of this month

BY BEN MACINTYRE

FRANCE's wine buffs are waxing lyrical over this year's Beaujolais Nouveau but producers fear the political fallout from French nuclear testing has left a bitter aftertaste that may damage exports of the world's most heavily hyped vintage when it goes on sale on Thursday.

Japan, a strong opponent of French nuclear policy, is importing 500,000 bottles — less than half the amount it consumed in 1994.

Sales in Germany and The Netherlands, the two largest foreign markets, are also expected to decline by 25 per cent, according to a local winemaker's association. Dutch calls for a boycott of all French wine have been particularly vehement.

Beaujolais Nouveau exports to Britain, which has supported President Chirac's stance on nuclear testing, are expected to remain stable while in America, where criticism of France has been muted, consumption is expected to grow. The Union Interprofessionnelle des Vins du Beaujolais (UIVB) announced this week.

Nuclear testing remains intensely unpopular in Australia — and so does Beaujolais Nouveau, for which sales, never large, are expected to be "minimal". France produces about 54 million bottles of the wine every year, and more than half of them are exported to fill shelves from the traditional third Thursday of November. However, the international taste for it has been declining in recent years. The fall in sales has been most marked in Japan, where its arrival was once a cause for widespread and intensely bibulous celebration. In the late 1980s Japan was drinking about three million bottles a year at a staggering £70 each.

In France, not a country to let a good wine go to waste over mere political disputes, demand for Beaujolais is steadily growing, the wine union said.

Croats charged with war crimes

TWO leading Bosnian Croat figures who played a significant military and political role in the conflict between Croats and Muslims in central Bosnia-Herzegovina two years ago were yesterday charged with war crimes (Michael Evans writes).

Dario Kordic, the powerful chairman of the Croatian Democratic Union in Croat-held Bosnia, and General Tihomir Blaskic, chief of staff of the Croat HVO forces in central Bosnia, were also charged with crimes against humanity. Four Croat officials were charged with them.

The charges, relating to the persecution of Muslims in the central Lasva Valley region,

where many Muslim communities were massacred or "ethnically cleansed", were laid by the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

Mr Kordic, who also held the rank of colonel, and General Blaskic remain key figures in the Croat-Muslim Federation formed after the fighting ended.

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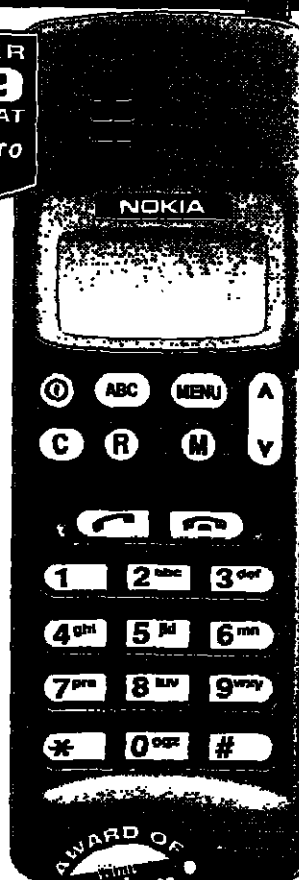
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6. The winner is the player with the most points.

7. The loser is the player with the fewest points.

8. The game is played on a board with letters.

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South Africa bars football team as Nigeria rift widens

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG AND NICHOLAS WOOD IN AUCKLAND

SOUTH AFRICA yesterday underlined its intention to get tough with Nigeria's military regime by withdrawing an invitation to the Nigerian soccer team to participate in the forthcoming four-nation tournament.

The Sports Ministry said that the decision was taken after a meeting with the South African Football Association and reflected their disgust at the "inhuman actions" of the Nigerian Government in executing Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others. The Nigerians, who pride themselves as the giants of African soccer and a leading world side, were the principal drawcard in the annual tournament between Egypt, Zambia and the South Africans due to start this weekend. The decision came in spite of strong opposition from within the football association and raises the prospect of a wider sports boycott.

The decision to withdraw the invitation will be welcomed by Nigerian pro-democracy activists, who have criticised President Mandela for his initial "softly, softly" approach. An outraged Mr Mandela has called for the expulsion of Nigeria from the Commonwealth and the South African chargé d'affaires in Lagos returned home at the weekend on his orders.

The executions appear to have marked a turning point in relations between the two countries. The Nigerian authorities announced that their

High Commissioner in Johannesburg was among several worldwide, including America, who were being recalled for discussions. South African government officials have been involved in formulating a stand on the future of diplomatic relations. The Congress of South African Trade Unions has called for mandatory sanctions.

South Africa will also join Britain and other Commonwealth countries in policing the association's new-found commitment to democracy. It was announced yesterday.

The others will be Zimbabwe, Ghana, Malaysia, Jamaica, Canada and New

Zealand. They will comprise the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group in charge of dealing with serious or persistent violations of the 1991 Harare Declaration on Human Rights.

Operating at foreign minister level, the group will have the power to recommend the suspension or expulsion of Commonwealth countries that flout the rule of law.

Speaking at the close of the four-day conference in Auckland yesterday, Jim Bolger, the summit host and New Zealand's Prime Minister, said that the group had been chosen to reflect the differing strands within the 52-nation body. The conference ended with the publication of a ten-page communiqué summing up the decisions taken at one of the Commonwealth's most tumultuous gatherings.

John Major said at his closing press conference that it had been a good week for the Commonwealth.

It was also the most dramatic summit of modern times, eclipsing the turmoil of Singapore in 1971 over British arms sales to South Africa and the 1979 Lusaka conference on Zimbabwe. For once in its life, the Commonwealth, or at least its key figures, moved fast. Mr Mandela emerged from the Regent Hotel after little more than an hour to confront those who had attacked him for being soft on Nigeria.

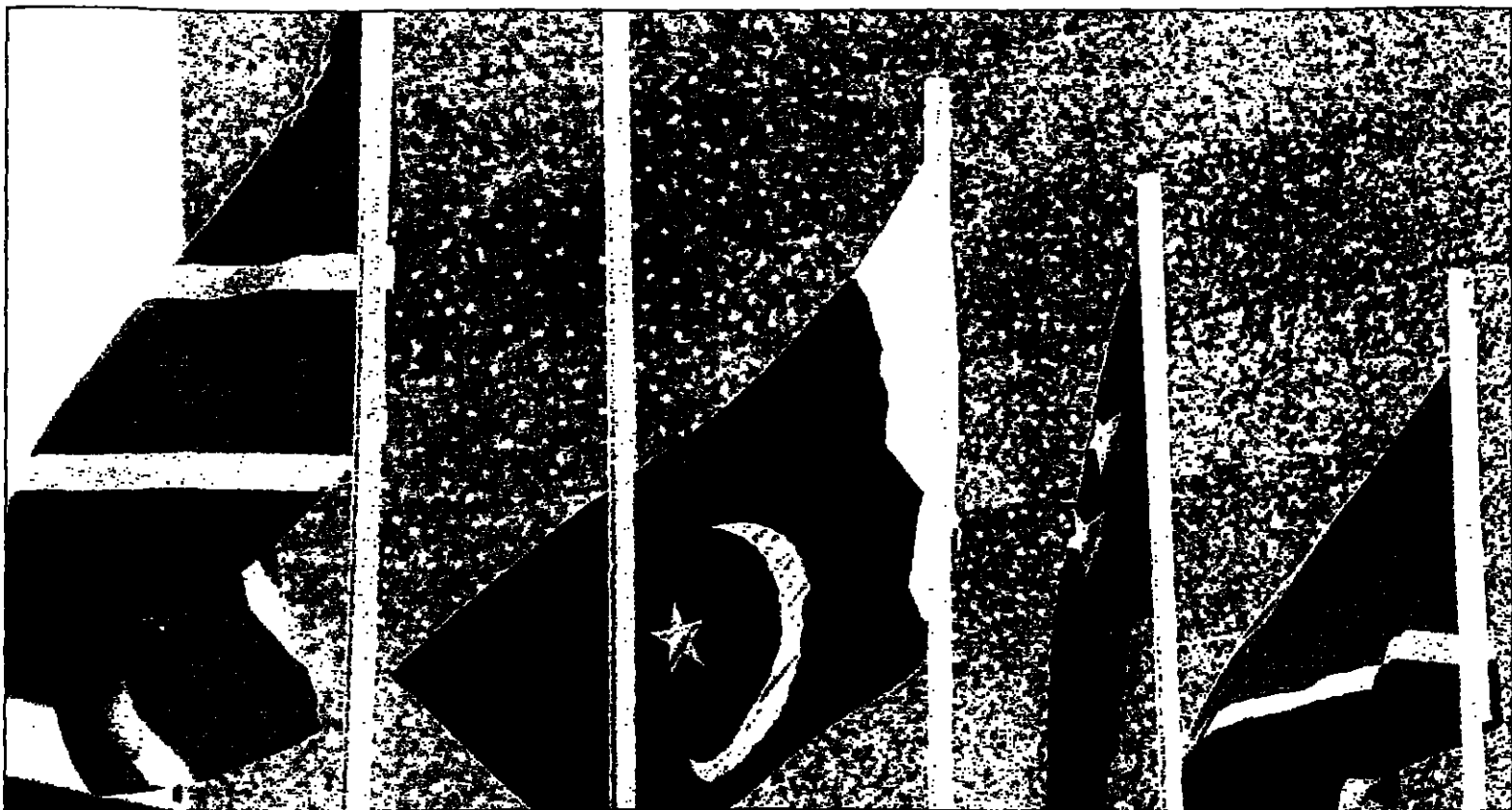
Sporting boycott, page 44

At least 50 die as jet crash-lands

Lagos: A Nigeria Airways Boeing 737 crashed on landing and burst into flames at Kaduna airport in northern Nigeria yesterday.

At least 50 people were killed and 44 were taken to hospital. Some, including a Briton, were seriously injured and casualties were expected to increase. About 120 people were on the domestic flight.

A senior aviation ministry official said: "Visibility was very poor and the plane overshot the runway." Sabotage was not suspected. (Reuter)



A bare pole testifies to the suspension of Nigeria outside the venue for the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Auckland

Shell presses ahead with natural gas project

By CARL MORTISHED

SHELL is carrying on with its plans to build a £2.5 billion natural gas plant in Nigeria. The company said yesterday that the timing of its final investment decision remained unchanged.

A statement released in London said that the company had no plans to freeze or stop operations in Nigeria. A Shell UK spokesman said, however, that if the international community declared an embargo on Nigerian oil, "we will obey the law".

Shell is the largest producer of oil in Nigeria, which was roundly censured for its execution last Friday of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer, and eight fellow opponents of the oil drilling

that provides most of the military Government's revenue. The nine men represented Nigeria's Ogoni ethnic minority, which claims that Shell's drilling operations have poisoned their Niger delta homeland.

The Anglo-Dutch oil company and its partners have already committed £830 million in cash to the project. The money is being held in escrow pending the investment decision which is due to be made at a board meeting of Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), the joint venture company which is to build the gas liquefaction plant at Bonny Island, at the mouth of the Niger.

A spokesman for Shell said: "The investment decision will be on the agenda of this month's board meeting

of Nigerian LNG. This decision is needed before the project can proceed to the signing of contracts for construction. These contracts would then be signed before the end of the year."

The board meeting is due to take place tomorrow in the Nigerian commercial centre, Lagos, with representatives of Shell, which has a 24 per cent interest in the project, along with Elf, Agip and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation. Shell and its partners have invested £320 million in technical work and the purchase of four vessels that will transport liquefied gas from the Niger delta to Europe. The project has taken more than ten years to set up and sales contracts have been agreed with France, Italy and Spain.

The contractors chosen to build the plant are ready to start work and are waiting for the release of funds. A spokesman for Technip, part of a consortium including Snamprogetti, Kellogg and JGC said: "We are waiting for the final investment decision."

The Ogoni's supporters claim that they have never been properly remunerated for the oil drained from their land, but they have been left with a legacy of rusting drilling rigs and underground pollution. Shell has refused to shoulder all the blame for the Niger delta's problems, pointing to a recent World Bank report that also cited population growth, deforestation, soil erosion and excessive farming as major contributing factors.

Kohl wins £1.4bn trade on controversial China visit

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

GERMAN industrialists yesterday signed £1.4 billion of business deals with China. At the same time Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, on the first full day of his controversial visit to China, apparently handed Li Peng, the Chinese Premier, a list of 15 imprisoned Chinese dissidents, German officials said.

The Chancellor, who arrived here on Sunday to begin a high-profile five-day visit, presented the list, said to have been drawn up by the London-based Amnesty International, during a meeting with Mr Li. The officials said, although it was not known whether Herr Kohl actually asked for the release of the prisoners, the list contained the name of Chen Ziming, said by China to be one of the "black hands"

behind the pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square that were violently suppressed by the army in June 1989. He was sentenced to 13 years in prison.

Herr Kohl, on his fourth visit to China as Chancellor, also presented a plea from the Roman Catholic Church in Germany for better treatment of Catholics in China. The Peking Government is officially atheist.

Meanwhile, 45 German industrialists travelling with the Chancellor signed 12 contracts and letters of intent. Herr Kohl described Sino-German relations as "excellent", pointing out that two-way trade was worth £7.6 billion last year and growing fast.

In a statement sure to please the Chinese, Herr Kohl said

he saw China's future as one of stability and prosperity. A Chinese government spokesman described China's relationship with Germany as a model of co-operation. At the same time, he criticised the United States for "erroneous analysis of China".

During his trip, Herr Kohl will visit a Chinese military unit, the 196th Light Infantry Division at Tianjin. He will be the first Western leader to inspect a People's Liberation Army division since the violent suppression of student protests of 1989.

The Chancellor's visit to the unit has provoked controversy in Germany, but German officials insist that the unit involved played no part in the suppression of the demonstrators in Tiananmen Square.



Gandhi: alleged to have been murdered by Tamils

Top Tiger woman is killed

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN HERAT, HAFIZULLA NORTHERN SRI LANKA

THE Tamil Tigers, under siege for almost a month in their collapsing stronghold in the shattered northern town of Jaffna, have been rocked by the death of their top woman leader, known as Akkila. She was a key suspect in the assassination in 1991 of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Indian Prime Minister.

She joined the rebels in 1987 and epitomised the deriding of female Tigers, who fight as equals alongside men. They live a spartan regime, abide by codes of chastity and frequently join the suicide squads known as Black Tigers. She is the most senior member of the Tigers have admitted losing since the security forces launched Operation Riviresa (Operation Sunshine) on October 17.

The Tigers said she died two weeks ago during a Sri Lankan army offensive. The delay in the announcement demonstrates the disintegration of the rebels' communications system. The Indian Government had sought Akkila's extradition to stand trial for murder.

The siege of Jaffna town continued yesterday but the Tigers were clearly putting up stiff resistance. The army has been largely withdrawn from other parts of the country for the offensive. The authorities are arming Sinhalese villagers in northern areas of the country with semi-automatic rifles and giving them 120 bullets each, so that they can protect themselves against the Tigers.

Hong Kong row over rights deepens

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

A POLITICAL and legal dispute erupted in Hong Kong yesterday after it was disclosed that Sir Ti Liang Yang, the Chief Justice, told a top Communist official that the colony's Bill of Rights could damage the territory's legal system.

The Government's top legal officers repudiated his view. Sir Ti Liang met Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary, who is the

colony's senior official after Chris Patten, the Governor, and was instructed to furnish his views in writing.

Sir Ti Liang, who three weeks ago stated that the Bill "has become too politicised and emotional for members of the judiciary to comment", has apologised for his remark, made at a private dinner last month with Zhang Junsheng, the deputy director of the New

China News Agency, Peking's de facto embassy here. Mr Zhang leaked details of their chat over the weekend. He said the Chief Justice "told me to my face that the Bill of Rights damages Hong Kong's legal system", by introducing an additional layer of law.

Yesterday, Sir Ti Liang said he could not recall what he said at the dinner, but admitted that he should have kept

quiet. The dispute brought about worsening relations with China last month when a Peking-sponsored group of mainland and Hong Kong legal experts charged that the Bill, which became law in 1991, violated Anglo-Chinese agreements, contradicted the Basic Law - China's mini-constitution for post-1997 Hong Kong - and would be emasculated.

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Resignation heals split with Seoul

FROM PIERRE HODSON IN TOKYO

A JAPANESE Cabinet Minister who said Japan did "good things" during its colonial rule of Korea resigned yesterday ensuring that a summit meeting between the leaders of Japan and South Korea would go ahead in Osaka this week.

The resignation of Takami Eto, the head of the Management and Co-ordination Agency and a member of the Liberal Democratic Party, ended a crisis between the two countries that began with the minister's off-the-record remarks a month ago.

South Korea made clear, however, that even though the crisis was over and the summit would take place, it was tired of offensive remarks by Japan about the past. A South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman in Seoul told reporters that the repeated historical gaffes by Japanese ministers - there have been six in just the past 18 months - would be raised at the bilateral summit.

"We will continue to consult with Japan on the question of understanding history," he said.

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For the next two weeks, you can play our £75,000 Scrabble game using the numbers printed in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

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Do we need to teach parenting?

We are all flung into parenthood unprepared

One can hardly blame the Labour Party for trying to make parents more responsible for their children. It indeed fits in with the famous Blair initiative to "get tough on crime, get tough on the causes of crime" — not that truancy should be thought of as a criminal offence. Although, if I understand it correctly, Jack Straw's plans to exhort the parents of children who persistently play truant might well lead, if the parents fail to respond, to the creation of a new order of criminal.

It is, of course, the parents' duty, as things stand, to make sure their children go to school, so in that sense there is no new offence to be fashioned, but the methods proposed mark a radical development. All schoolchildren, in the first instance, are to be issued with identity cards, and the police will be given the power to demand their inspection. Any pupil who is found not to be in class during school hours may then be rounded up by the police, unless a signed chit by teacher or parent to explain the child's absence from school is proffered.

What better way of suggesting to a child that the police are the enemy, that school is the enemy? And yet I do see that juvenile crime has to be addressed, and that working to reduce the number of truanting children has to be among the first steps. And I admire Jack Straw for broaching, yet again, a difficult subject. But the model of the American "parental training order" seems flawed. What will happen is that parents of children who never go to school will be required to go to classes in which they will learn how to make their children attend class. That's putting it at its bluntest: no doubt, those working out the strategy would genuinely rather see such classes as a way of helping parents to deal with problem children, to work out a way of "encouraging" a better attitude in these children.

I suspect a large number of those children with a so-called bad attitude towards school have parents with this self-same bad attitude. Friends of mine who are

teachers tell me horrific stories about the intimidation and bullying derision that they have to put up from parents of children who are giving them trouble in school. I cannot see these classes going down particularly well. And if a more positive attitude is not forthcoming, the end result could be — though this is the threatened ultimate sanction — that the children are taken into care.

Put like that, the system couldn't seem more flawed. And yet, one detects in the Labour Party's plans to help parents to become better parents, a sincere desire to tackle the mess. Many parents feel the same way: there is now a vocal if not large contingent trying to put the case that prevention is better than cure, and what we need to do is address the problem before it becomes a problem. How ridiculous it is, these people tell me, that being a parent is the most important thing that most people will probably ever do in their lives, and yet no provision is made for this in schools: we are all flung into parenthood unprepared. There is a real move in some circles towards the establishment of "parenting" classes.

I am made very uneasy about any proposition to teach pupils in school how to become good parents. For one thing, I'm not convinced teachers are necessarily the best people to do this. And such classes would be inevitably vulnerable to fads and fashions. What's more, to suggest that one has to do X or Y to become a good parent is flawed in itself.

Of course, it is all part of the modern myth that in order to know anything, one must be an expert. A mother or a father, not being an expert, must therefore not necessarily trust their own judgment about what is right for their child, but ask for expert assistance elsewhere.

And yet, an understanding of child development would be helpful. But perhaps there is a way pupils can learn a bit about what it takes to be a parent. One only has to look around to see there is a need for it.



NIGELLA LAWSON

As a drug victim lies in a coma, Valerie Grove looks at the dilemma facing parents and teenagers

The Ecstasy and the agony

Go to a party. See you in the morning. Love XXXX. PS: No E!!! We are accustomed to receiving this note from a daughter. So often have we exhorted them to say No if offered Ecstasy, they invariably add the flip postscript "No E".

Having three daughters aged 19, 16 and 14, I recognise with a horrible sense of dread the plight of the Betts family and the sad ending to their daughter Leah's 18th birthday party. Look at the facts. Both parents were in the house. The mother, a nurse, has given drugs education in schools. The father, a former police officer, knows about drugs. Both were adept at mouth-to-mouth resuscitation when their daughter stopped breathing on the bedroom floor.

Precisely the kind of parents who, like any of us, thought it could never happen, at home, to their A-level student daughter.

How to cope with the level of anxiety that is now an obligatory element of parenthood? There are shelves of books on baby-sitting, feeding and teething, and no shortage of columnists rabbling on about how little sleep they get with their firstborn. The trials of adolescence are the real test.

I recently had the Saturday midnight phone-call: "Your daughter is vomiting blood. We've called an ambulance..." She was out to supper with friends in Hampstead; she'd leap-frogged over some concrete posts; she was in the Royal Free on a drip for three days. No drugs involved; but it was a glimpse of the insouciant foolishness endemic in the teen scene of Saturday nights on the streets.

It is the mental effects of E that have made it so popular. You generally feel uninhibited, clear-headed, relaxed, with a strong sense of empathy to people around you.

This is from a booklet on Ecstasy given out in my daughters' school. It is full of straight facts: "E or MDMA (Methylene-dioxy-meth-amphetamine) is a mildly hallucinogenic amphetamine triggering the release of two brain chemicals (serotonin which affects the mood) and dopamine (which affects pain). It is a Class A drug, like heroin, made illegal in 1988; it is illegal to manufacture, sell, possess or use."

But it also describes graphically the appealing euphoria: "Your whole body tingles, pupils widen, the heart rate and temperature increase... Your sense of touch is heightened so you can feel very sensual and sexy and in love with everything around you." "Once up, it is like you can last forever..." "You think: I love this place, these people, I never want it to stop, I never want to go home..."

The leaflet points out that although the mortal risk looks slight (about 50 E-related deaths in the UK since 1990) compared to the 700,000 who die of smoking-related dis-



A drug-free party of innocent young people enjoying themselves, but many teenagers today admit to being offered and pressured to take drugs

eases each year, "all the people who die of E are healthy young people".

I turn to the leaflet *Drugs & Solvents: You and Your Child* from the Department of Health. "Look out," it advises, "for sudden changes of mood from happy and alert to sullen and moody... unusual irritability or aggression... loss of appetite, loss of interest in hobbies, school or friends, bouts of drowsiness." No help here: sounds like normal adolescent behaviour.

I happened yesterday to be addressing the sixth form of an independent London girls' school. A golden opportunity

to ask 80 captive 17 and 18-year-olds about their experiences with E. It was like opening a floodgate. These young women, all taking at least three A levels with glittering prospects, knew all about E. Naturally, nobody had actually tried it herself — "it's just done-ish behaviour to take it, to be part of the crowd" — but they all knew many who had. Those weekend clubs (alcohol-free, so parents imagine they are innocuous) are the focus of their social lives; at

every club, never mind the searching done at the door, they are offered tablets. "It's part of the scene. Someone will say: 'Come on, try some. It'll make you feel great. You must be the only person in here who isn't on anything.'" Several had felt intimidated by the insistence of the offers.

"You can tell at once if a friend is taking it. They're suddenly hyperactive and jumping around. They're all

intelligent — at Club UK there's always a whole gang from Eton — but their attitude is 'I'm young, I'm invincible. I'm happy, I'm free'. They feel released by it."

Schools already do everything possible to warn them. These girls are brought up on warnings of the dangers and folly of drugs. They get visits from police officers, and talks from teachers. So why do their friends succumb? "The teen-

age mentality," said one. "They think, 'I know it's a bad idea but I want to try it anyway'."

They all knew people who carry on taking E — even after they have watched people turn green and clammy, and get carried out on a stretcher. It is regarded as "lucky". I was told, never to have tried E at all.

The head of the sixth form, who had listened intently to

what the girls told me, said afterwards that it was quite impossible to say what more a school can do. There is no shortage of information, advice and warnings.

"But perhaps it's all hopeless because it comes from us. The real influence on them is from their peer group. All we can do here is press on with raising their self-esteem, and sense of self-worth, to give them strength of purpose."

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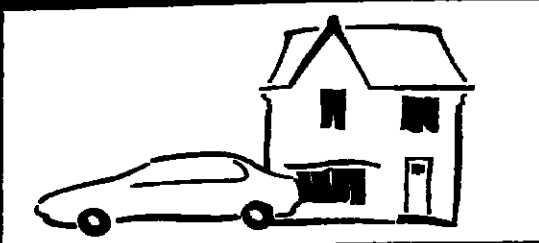
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went after the dealer, parted with £15, and popped his pill.

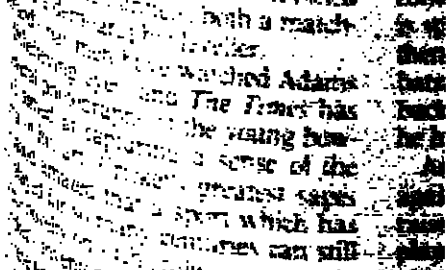
"In fact, I only ate half of it at first because I was scared. Nothing happened, so I ate the rest. Twenty minutes later I started smiling. I felt cool and tingly, and then warmer, and my fingertips and toes were buzzing. Suddenly this huge room full of people with throbbing music and blue light, seemed the best place in the world.

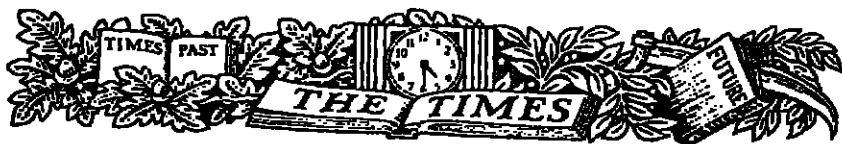
"I DANCED for hours. I made friends, I wanted to kiss everybody. I did get dehydrated, but the bonhomie among the queues of people with paper cups filling into the loos to get water was amazing. Everyone was grinning because we all knew why we were thirsty. Most of them were about 17, but I felt their age again. I forgot I had a job, and debts, and existential angst — I thought 'if I just stay on this stuff for the rest of my life everything will be okay'."

"But by the time the sun came up I was coming down, and I felt horribly miserable. My jaw ached from grinning all night and I didn't go to work for a couple of days. Real life couldn't compare with the way I had felt."

GILES COREN

SHARP





DESERT STORM

Attacks on the US in Saudi Arabia attack the House of Saud

When an explosion ripped through a Saudi Arabian mosque during Friday prayers last month, the official explanation was a "land dispute": there is no disguising the political charge packed by yesterday's attack on a US-run military training centre in Riyadh, in which four Americans were killed and at least 30 injured. The attack does not of itself disprove the claims by Saudi ministers that dissidence in the kingdom is confined to a tiny minority. But terrorists do not have to be numerous to damage the political fabric of a country so tenuously balanced as is Saudi Arabia between intense religious and social conservatism and the creation of a modern, semi-industrial economy. Any successful attack against Americans in Saudi Arabia is a direct challenge to the authority of the House of Saud.

The stability of the kingdom forged in 1932 by Abdul Aziz is all-important to the West. As the land with a quarter of the world's proven oil reserves, it is the prudent arbiter of price and supply in Opec. It is key to the dual containment policy towards Iran and Iraq; and the quiet decision of the Saudi ruling house to temper its hostility to Israel in the interest of its own wider security has been critical to peace in the Middle East.

The great question is whether the House of Saud, an absolute monarchy constructed to the designs of another age, is flexible enough to hold the kingdom together. By modern Middle Eastern standards, it has proved resilient. It has weathered the translation to immeasurable wealth; it has absorbed a great influx of foreign workers to a closed tribal society; and it even managed without grave incident the temporary presence of 800,000 foreign troops, most of them non-Islamic, during the Gulf War. But pressures on its archaic governing structures have grown with each event.

The ultra-cautious King Fahd has to contend on one hand with obscurantist Islamist radicals, bitterly hostile to modernisation in general and the Kingdom's dealings with the Western infidel in particular. They feed on the fear of change and on resentments about corruption and conspicuous consumption among the 6,000 princes of the royal house. On the other, he must reckon with the problems of success:

thousands of educated Saudis now form an articulate middle class which is actively questioning the viability of an absolutist governing system constrained by little but family consensus and webs of tribal loyalty.

These fissures will not easily be bridged. The old remedy combined largesse designed to minimise dissent with firm repression of any that remained. But precisely because the kingdom levies few taxes and subsidises its citizens lavishly, Saudi Arabia presents the paradox of a super-rich country with a nearly empty Treasury. Its budget has been steeply in deficit for years and two wars — that between Iran and Iraq, and the Gulf conflict — have cost it nearly \$100 billion. Efforts in the past two years to impose a financial discipline, while largely successful, have dictated unpopular cuts in subsidies. There have been cautious political reforms as well, including the revival of a Majlis al-Shura or consultative council. But its members are all appointed by the King and its deliberations go largely unreported by the tightly controlled Saudi media. In consequence, the Majlis neither meets demands of modernisers for more accountable government, nor provides a forum open enough to enable the Government to measure the public pulse.

The kingdom needs time to square these circles: it will not change under siege. Britain adds to its nervousness, by appearing to tolerate Islamist extremists who, in the name of reform, would impose a rigid theocratic agenda on the country. Saudi Arabia is bitter that London harbours some of the most articulate of these activists, whose message is xenophobic, anti-Western and rabidly intolerant of Saudi Arabia's important Shia minority and its relatively cosmopolitan merchant class. Men such as Dr Muhammad al-Massari are openly working for the overthrow of a regime which Britain considers to be an indispensable ally; yet he is still in Britain a full year after his application for political asylum was rejected. Britain rightly values free speech. But it should do what it can to temper excessive Saudi caution about reform. Where there is any suspicion of terrorist intent, it would reassure moderate Islam were the Home Secretary to make a more robust practical use of his powers.

THE HONOURABLE PAYSIP

After Nolan, MPs must be paid their proper rate

In the past 30 years, the average real income of Britons has risen by 80 per cent; that of MPs is still the same as it was in 1964. In those days, to go into politics was as attractive an option for ambitious young graduates as was the law, the media or business. Now it requires a peculiar self-sacrifice, an understanding that the candidate needs either a private income, a high-earning spouse or the acceptance of a standard of living well below that of comparable professional families.

The result is a generation of political addicts. Only the ideologically driven now feel impelled to enter politics. Few others can afford to do so. Those professionals who once earned roughly the same as an MP can now take home twice or three times as much. The pay of a British MP lags behind not only that of a doctor or barrister but also behind MPs in America, Italy, France, Japan, Germany and Hong Kong.

Ministers have fared even worse, and now earn less than half the salary paid to Harold Wilson's Cabinet 30 years ago. Their real pay has fallen by between 50 and 60 per cent since 1964. Any historical analysis of prime ministerial pay reveals a dramatic decline. In today's money, the Duke of Wellington earned £743,000 a year, Neville Chamberlain £452,000 and Harold Wilson, £108,000, compared with Mr Major's £82,000.

The result can be seen already in the House of Commons. Ministers who lose their jobs and do not expect to return to Government are often quick to bow out of Parliament at the next election. The House no longer has a large complement of wise and

independent backbenchers who can fill the chamber with a well-judged speech and give warning of bad legislation before it reaches the statute books. How should parliament remedy this position without causing an immense political fuss?

Most Labour MPs earn more than their constituents and more than their general management committees. To vote for a big real pay rise would be seen as inflammatory at a time when politicians are already held in low repute. The answer is for the Prime Minister to expand the remit of the Nolan committee to include MPs' and ministers' pay. Nolan's deliberations would be trusted by the public in a way that those of MPs are not. Members will, of course, have to vote on the recommendations, but they could promise in advance to abide by whatever Nolan suggested. If they were to vote for a pay rise to come into force after the next general election, many of them would be lining their successors' pockets rather than their own.

The temptation for Labour would be to oppose a pay rise on populist grounds. This would give them short-term political advantage. But it would be wrong. Tony Blair will have a hard task justifying a pay rise to his party. All he can do is to abdicate responsibility to Nolan. In doing so, he will be helping to ensure that the House of Commons contains the greatest number of able and dedicated members in future. Although the painful parts of the Nolan recommendations have been agreed, the task remains unfinished. British MPs, now that they are no longer allowed to profit from their position, must be paid a better rate for their job.

CAPE COLOURED CHINAMAN

But would we ever find a Paul Adams in England?

"Rejoice, rejoice!" said a British Prime Minister once, although not after a game of cricket. But her words may at last have found their delayed echo in the southern hemisphere. An 18-year-old cricketer — of stocky build and mystery — has bowled his way into a Boy's Own cricket fantasy, spinning England like a top with his irreverent left hand. Not content with being a spinner of indecent venom, Paul Adams is also a Coloured man from the Cape Flats: for South African cricket there is now, rolled into one set of white flannels, both a match-winner and a demographic leveller.

England's batsmen have watched Adams with disbelief eyes; and *The Times* has run several photographs of the young bowler, all aimed at capturing a sense of the enigma of his art. Cricket's greatest sages have stood amazed that a sport which has been played for so many centuries can still produce novelty on such scale.

Cricket's inventors tend to be bowlers — and these tend on the whole to be spin bowlers. Adams is not an inventor, of course: nothing that he bowls has not been bowled before by someone else. Yet — and this is meant, perhaps, for more intense followers

stock delivery. Other left-hand wrist spinners (Fleetwood-Smith, say, or Sobers) bowled mainly the Chinaman, cricket argot for the left-hand delivery which breaks into the right-hand batsman — just as an off-spinner would do, less gloriously.

But for all the unorthodoxy of his repertoire, the true source of our astonishment lies in Adams's action. His bowling is not a thing of beauty: it is lopsided and inelegant, like the callisthenics of a rare contortionist. Anything that can be played is played; and the bowler looks down first, then sideways, as he delivers, never at the batsman. Adams may, in a few years, have back, neck and groin trouble; at present, all he has is fizzy-fingered success.

As England's batsmen groped ineptly against this teenager, a piquant question raised its head. It was not about whether our players would master him eventually, although that is still worth asking. The question is this: could a bowler like Adams ever appear in the modern English game? Depressingly, the answer is no. Our Roundhead fear of unorthodoxy is too great, and our distrust of spirited individuals even greater. That is why we still bowl with the

'Time to call the people to the polls'

From Lurd Alport

Sir, It appears that the Prime Minister intends to let this Parliament run its full five-year course. I am, perhaps, not alone in regarding the prospect with dismay.

The campaign for the next election seems to have been going on for at least the last two years, with nearly two more to come. For instance, the pressure on the Chancellor for tax cuts, being brought by powerful elements in the Conservative Party, relates not to what is financially prudent, but to how far it will ensure that the Government is returned to power in 1997. The assumption seems to be that it will revive the "feel good" factor and that a grateful electorate will reward the party with its votes.

What is more, Tory MPs seem to believe that even if it comes to their rescue and obliterate from the voters' memory the divisions over Europe, the accusations of "sleaze" and the misjudgments which have been made by ministers over the last 16 years.

There is today in Britain a sour and dissatisfied mood. The reputation of Parliament and the Government is lower than it has been in living memory. In an earlier generation people might have taken in desperation to the streets and if this goes on too long they may still do so.

When a situation like this arises it is the duty of a government, of whatever party, in a parliamentary democracy to call an election. It cannot govern a country unless it has the confidence of its people and it is the people who suffer.

The Prime Minister should therefore make it clear that he intends to call an election before June 1, 1996. It is too late for an election this year. Such a pronouncement would have the advantage of concentrating the minds of Conservative Members of Parliament. It would give them time to heal the divisions in their ranks. Mr Clarke's Budget would legitimately be an election Budget.

Such an announcement would, I think, be regarded by the electorate as a timely and brave decision by the Prime Minister. It would give the Conservatives a better chance of winning again than a penny or two off the income tax in 1996.

Yours faithfully,
LURD ALPORT,
House of Lords,
November 10.

Payments to MPs

From Professor Emeritus Anthony Ralston

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("A place for advocates", November 8) is correct that "a deliberative chamber without advocates is a game of charades". However, his solution — MPs paid for advocacy but required to declare their interest and remuneration — will not bear scrutiny.

An MP paid by, say, the Police Federation to advocate its interests or by BT to support its regulatory posture will inevitably be suspected, and often correctly so, of telling only one side of the story; that which supports the interests of the employer.

What Parliament or any legislative body needs is informed and, so far as this is possible for anyone, unbiased advocacy. The way to get that is to pay MPs enough so that they do not need remuneration from those trying to buy them, and to provide them with the staff support which will enable them to become experts, and therefore expert advocates, in areas of interest to them.

Sincerely,
ANTHONY RALSTON,
Flat 4,
Albert Court,
58 Prince Consort Road, SW7,
November 8.

Not taken as read

From Professor Emeritus Gordon Lawrence

Sir, In the article, "Why Pat Barker won the Booker" (November 8), adapted from George Walden's speech at the Booker dinner, there were some proper reflections on the apparent decline in cultural mediocrity.

Mr Walden cited a prizegiving he had attended at a secondary school where "the representative of the people" handed out "six 'bonkbusters', four stories for weirdos and three copies of a cruel satire on politicians...". May I try to redress the balance a little? Last night I presented the prizes at a sixth-form college in Shropshire, and I paid close attention to the books chosen by the students. These varied from dictionaries, mathematical tables and textbooks in history and physics to the usual classical novels. Not one in over 50 prizes could be described as trivial.

I think we are in danger of losing perspective: we should have more faith in the tastes of the young and their genuine search for excellence.

Yours etc,
GORDON LAWRENCE
(Director, Institute of Education,
Warwick University, 1976-86),
The Coach House, Church Street,
Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire,
November 9.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Part played by diesel emissions in traffic pollution

From the Shadow Minister for Transport

Sir, Your report "Diesel fumes 'are killing thousands of people' a year" (November 9) draws attention to the increasing dangers of air pollution caused by traffic and the proposed strengthening of emission standards. However, the Government is failing to enforce the existing standards, not least by cutting traffic-enforcement staff by 6 per cent in the last two years.

We have all had the uncomfortable experience of sitting behind a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) belching black smoke yet in the last financial year, laughably, only one owner was prosecuted for excess emissions while in the whole of the UK a mere 450 vehicles were "prohibited" (in other words, could not be used) their emission systems were improved. These figures represent only a small proportion of the offenders.

Labour is supporting those motorist organisations which have become so exasperated by the lack of action that they are encouraging the public to report offending cars and lorries to the regional vehicle inspectorate.

In the long term the decline in the number of traffic-enforcement staff in the inspectorate needs to be halted. Local authorities and the police may also need to consider developing public support for establishing a green action force, perhaps based on a hybrid of the present system of traffic wardens, police and environmental health officers.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM ALLEN,
House of Commons,
November 9.

From Mrs Veronica Palmer

Sir, You are right to say (leading article, November 9) that an efficient public transport system, combined with strict air-quality standards, is the only

sensible solution for a civilised society.

Although diesel-powered, buses are the cornerstone of an environmentally friendly urban transport system. Quite simply, buses are the most practical, economical and environmentally effective people-movers we have. In recent Vehicle Inspectorate exhaust tests, designed to measure harmful emissions, fewer buses and coaches failed than any other type of vehicle.

Public transport operators and manufacturers are at the forefront of research into alternative fuels. Experiments with gas and battery-powered vehicles are already up and running. However, all are agreed that diesel is the only viable option for the foreseeable future. Its reduced sulphur content, combined with new engine technologies, still does cause fewer polluting emissions than cars.

It is essential to have a tax regime which discriminates in favour of public transport. Higher duty on diesel fuel for public transport operators would transfer thousands of people back to their cars.

Yours faithfully,
VERONICA PALMER
(Director General,
Confederation of Passenger
Transport UK,
Sardinia House,
52 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2,
November 9.

From Mr Frank Paton

Sir, Your concern over the environmental dangers from diesel fumes is commendable. Many countries have measures which are beginning to find a solution: park and ride, free bus services and fiscal laws are but a few.

In the United States and Europe the use of a percentage of biodiesel made from rape seed has significantly reduced vehicle exhaust pollution: 20 per cent biodiesel in fossil diesel reduces the harmful pollutants by 30 per cent.

One wonders at the sincerity of the Government's intentions. Today this association, after two years' intensive discussion with senior officials, has received a reply to its request to the Paymaster General for pilot-plant status for biodiesel plants, as in the rest of the EU, to make possible the production of pollutant-reducing, sulphur-free and 100 per cent biodegradable biodiesel to start here. The reply is an unconditional "No".

Yours faithfully,
FRANK PATON
(Chairman, British Association for Bio Fuels and Oil),
Castle Farm,
Enmore, Bridgewater, Somerset,
November 9.

From Dr A. McHutchon

Sir, Diesel fuel (Cat 95, November 11) is cheap to distil and, unlike petrol, does not require expensive or toxic additives to enhance engine performance. In its unburnt state it is much less hazardous to handle and transport.

The Chancellor can indeed do something to save diesel: he could levy a tax on the sulphur content of all petroleum-derived fuels. This would affect petrol as well as diesel. Sulphur compounds in engine exhausts are toxic, even if a catalyst is fitted. The resulting development of low-sulphur fuels would benefit us all.

Sulphur content is high in crude oil from some parts of the Middle East, lower in North Sea crude and very low in vegetable oils. This tax would have a secondary benefit on our balance of payments. Tax could be easily graded according to the amount of sulphur found in each batch of fuel.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW McHUTCHON,
19 Lily Crescent,
Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne,
November 11.

Tax cuts and government borrowing

From Mr Tom Birkett

Sir, Mr Graham Saunders (letter, November 8) is right in his assertion that "government debt is rarely repaid". An example of this rare occurrence is of recent vintage, though.

During the premiership of Mrs Thatcher her Government managed, for three years (1987-90), not only to reduce income tax but also to substitute PSDR (public sector debt repayment) for PSBR (public sector borrowing requirement).

Yours faithfully,
TOM BIRKETT,
5 Silverbeech Road, Wallasey, Wirral,
November 8.

From Mr David J. Kidd

Sir, Mr Saunders falls prey to the common misconception that tax cuts require financing. On the contrary, it is government spending which requires finance. All taxation is confiscation of property or income belonging to private individuals to support government outlays.

If I have £100 of which £40 is now taken, and after the tax-cutting Budget £25 is taken, the £15 difference is simply that much less seized. There is no question of its being financed by government: I finance the £15 by my work.

In any case, many of the most damaging taxes are imposed not to raise money but to satisfy egalitarian passions. Inheritance tax, capital gains tax and the higher rate of income tax could all be abolished at very slight

immediate cost to the Government and, overall, an increase in long-term tax revenues, decreasing the level of government borrowing.

If Mr Saunders is anxious about government borrowing, nothing prevents him making a cheque out to the Treasury. Recently an elderly lady died, leaving £2 million to the Government (Diary, January 2). It is an excellent example. She did not seek to use state power to exact the money from others who may well have better things to do with it — like raising the children who will produce the grandchildren whom Mr Saunders frets about.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. KIDD,
Citroen Wells
(Chartered accountants),
Devonshire House,
1 Devonshire Street, W1,
November 8.

From Mr A. E. Gregory

Sir, There must be millions of people in this country, pensioners, unemployed, those on income support and various forms of social security, who do not pay any direct tax.

What good will tax cuts do for those people and would it influence them which way they vote at the next general election?

Yours sincerely,
A. E. GREGORY,
12 Queens Court,
Woodland Road, Derby,
November 8.

Out of sight

From Mr William Newby

Sir, The real reason why the Victorians covered their furniture legs was nothing to do with their sexual inhibitions ("Are we as prudish as the Victorians?", Nigella Lawson, November 7; letter, November 13). In Victorian times furniture could be up to 20 times as expensive, in real terms, as it is today; roads were rougher and dirtier so footwear had to be heavier and could chip and scuff unprotected woodwork.

If Miss Lawson's version is correct, Victorian sex must have worked a five and a half day week because the coverings were removed for the weekend. It was no coincidence that lighter footwear was worn on high days and holidays.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM NEWBY,
High Fell,
5 Hawcliffe View,
Sliden, West Yorkshire,
November 13.

Back to basics

From Mr Ronald Forrest

Sir, Two headlines in *The Times* of November 10 give us a good indication of the levels to which education must have sunk: on page 9, "Schools chief calls for pupils to learn right from wrong"; and on page 39, "Discipline brings results". A couple of generations ago such headlines might have been seen as the equivalent of "Scientists invent wheel".

Yours faithfully,
RONALD FORREST,
Delfon Castle Morris

A proper cover-up

From Mr R. MacAlastair Brown

Sir, Referring to the Cenotaph occasion and Mr Heseltine's presence, Dr Sturtford's advice (November 13) of the need to wrap up and be mindful of one's underwear brings into focus the care the service leaders give to the young and fit men and women under their charge. Well fitted, warm outerwear, together with headgear, for our Armed Forces in bitter weather sometimes contrasts with elderly men standing for long periods with bare heads, when it is known that body heat escapes through the top of the head quickly.

A succession of mild years has led to a silly fashion of men doing without hats. But can we afford to risk the wellbeing of our leaders? It should be sufficient to doff headwear briefly at a significant moment.

Yours sincerely,
R. MACALASTAIR BROWN,
39 Moss Lane,
Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire.

Widening the criteria

From Mrs Brenda Reeves

Sir, The General Medical Council wants overseas doctors to satisfy it about their "competence, communication and interpersonal skills" (report, November 9). In the light of my own experience, I wonder if we may look forward to the council one day applying at least the last two tests to all would-be doctors of the home-grown variety.

Yours hopefully,
BRENDA REEVES,
8 Rickland Gardens

Missing oysters

From Mr Jon Miller

Sir, The decline of our oyster population ("Where have all our oysters gone?", November 9) began with the unintentional introduction of the Slipper Limpet (*Crepidula fornicata*). These arrived unwitting with American oysters, which were brought over here and relaid on oyster beds in the South East. From there they spread slowly round our coasts.

This limpet smothers oysters by setting on them in great numbers and competes with them for food. It gets its name from the shape of its shell which resembles a slipper.

Over-fishing is certainly a serious matter these days, but I believe that the limpet is the main cause of the decline of British oysters.

Yours sincerely,
JON MILLER,
Tranack Farm,
Tranack, Helston, Cornwall,
November 9.

Dome as hoarding

From Mr B. H. LePine-Williams

Sir, Your correspondents today take the authorities at St Paul's to task for allowing the dome to be used for advertising. However, if the supporters of St Paul's cannot stump up enough to keep this magnificent cathedral as a living memorial to the life and work of Jesus then surely they cannot complain when Mammon steps in.

Yours faithfully,
B. H. LEPINE-WILLIAMS,
Heathcote,
Tilston Road, Malpas, Cheshire,
November 11.

Classical slip-up

From Mrs B. M. Morison

Sir, Prometheus may have animated his clay figures with stolen fire (Times Two Crossword clue, "Stane brought to life for Prometheus", November 8) but it was Pygmalion who breathed life into his fair lady, Galatea.

Yours pedantically,
BETTY MORISON,
32 Ashfield Lane, Chislehurst, Kent,
November 8.

From Mr P. L. Flatman

Sir, If the answer to 20 across is Galatea it was Polyphemus who was interested. Prometheus was associated with Pandora.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FLATMAN,
3 Meadow Close,
Thatcham, Berkshire,
November 8.

Of sterner stuff

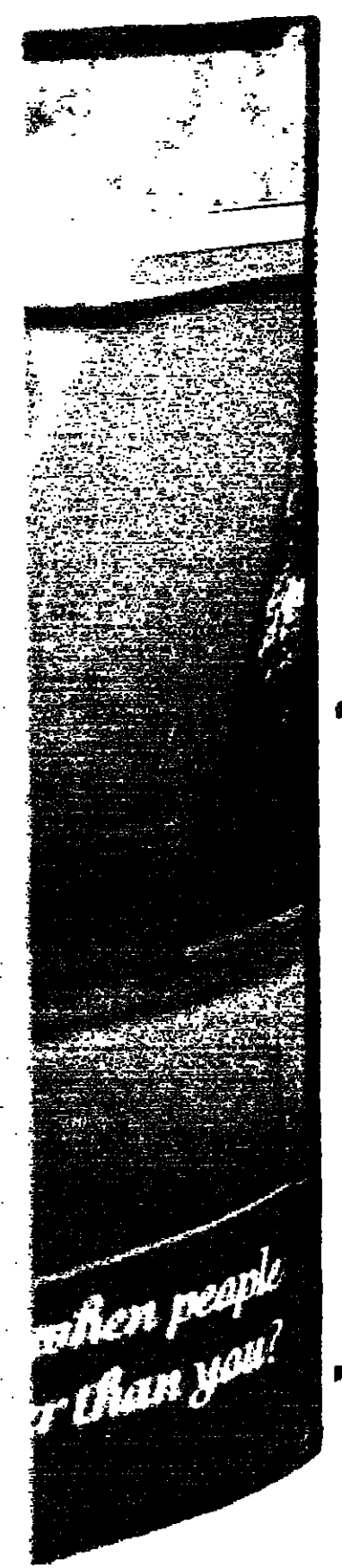
From the Headmistress, Walthamstow Hall, Sevenoaks

Sir, Has your diarist ever met a modern headmistress ("Girls, girls", November 11)? Twenty? Likely to be shocked by the idea of "gentlemen engaging in brief liaisons with the fairer sex"? at the Cumberland Hotel? For heaven's sake! The Girls' Schools Association has held the conference in Amsterdam before now!

Yours faithfully,
J. S. LANG,
Walthamstow

aster of Rolls
tacks Appeal
ourt delays

COURT QUE



often people
than you?

Diplomacy is paying off, Michael Theodoulou reports

Kingdom set for peace and prosperity

When King Hussein surveys Amman from his hilltop palace, few would begrudge him the pride he might feel. The city would barely have qualified for town status when he came to the throne 43 years as a 17-year-old prince. The capital was then just a dusty outpost on the troubled eastern heights of the Jordan Valley.

Now that he has made peace with Israel, the King is determined to show his policy has paid off by making prosperity follow. A quarter of Jordanians live below the poverty line. Income per head in the oil-free desert kingdom, rich only in minerals such as phosphates and potash, stands at just \$1,500 (under £1,000 a year). There is 15 per cent unemployment, the population is growing by 3.4 per cent and Jordan has \$5.9 billion of foreign debt.

Yet the economic fundamentals are promising. Jordan is enjoying a mini-boom because of increased regional stability and a macroeconomic stabilisation programme backed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Three years into a five-year programme, Jordan has met most of its goals and is delivering sustainable, non-inflationary growth. Economic growth is expected to rise by 6.5 per cent this year, a figure independent economists say should be maintained or surpassed next year. Exported goods this year have increased by 25 per cent and tourism by 40 per cent while imports are rising at 11 per cent. Remittances from workers abroad are expected to exceed \$1 billion, up 17 per cent.

"From the fiscal point of view, Jordan is extremely well managed," says Walid Alamuddin, Citibank's man-

ager based in Amman for the Levant countries. "There has been a very significant decrease of the fiscal deficit relative to expenditure and the gross domestic product."

However, the Government's limited resources mean that substantial foreign and local investment is needed for future economic development. Many Jordanians grumble that they have yet to feel any peace dividend and, despite some American debt forgive-

Jordan is enjoying a mini-boom because of increased regional stability

ness, future aid from Washington is uncertain.

Jordan used the run-up to the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit in Amman to announce major structural reforms aimed at attracting foreign investors. A wide-ranging package includes substantial corporate and income tax cuts and a reduction in customs duties. Foreigners will be allowed 100 per cent ownership, free repatriation of their profits or revenues from the sale of their ventures and be able to manage their projects with their own people.

"Bureaucracy is the biggest challenge they'll face when it comes to implementing the new investment laws," a Western commercial attaché says. "There are still powerful blocs here which take a dim view of foreign ownership."

Jordan, pressed for capital,

is also striving to gear the economy toward a free market and away from the extensive public sector which contributes about 80 per cent of GDP. Tourism, the economy's most dynamic sector, is the ripest contender for privatisation.

Elsewhere, full-scale privatisation is some way off: state enterprises must be commercialised before being sold off. There is also a political stumbling block to privatisation. State enterprises have traditionally provided sinecures for retired military officers, and leftist and Islamist groups are opposed to the sale of national assets. There is also concern that privatised assets could be controlled by well-off Palestinian residents at the expense of East Bank Jordanians.

"I'm confident the Jordanians will make the necessary moves," the diplomat says. "They fear that if they don't move fast they'll lose out to the Lebanese, who are seen as the region's real entrepreneurs. Jordan's a step ahead because it has made peace with Israel and the barriers are crumbling." Israelis have shown interest in joint ventures and efforts are being made at integration in trade, tourism, infrastructure and finance.

The King's decision this summer to distance himself from Saddam Hussein has led to better relations with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia whose prosperous markets before 1990 had absorbed much Jordanian agricultural produce and labour. At the same time, by rejecting US pressure to sever Iraq's economic lifeline to the outside world, he has ensured that any future, sanctions-free regime in Iraq, once Jordan's biggest market, will look kindly on Jordan.

A lifeline for the Beduin

An Anglo-Jordanian project is helping to breathe life into a rugged, stony territory



The Badia researchers are trying to improve living standards in the region

transformed into a multipurpose scientific field centre housing lecture and seminar rooms, research laboratories and a herbarium. Its costs are met by an annual grant of more than £100,000 from the Jordanian Government.

The joint research team at Safawi is undertaking a detailed study of the area, examining its human and physical resources and calculating how to

introduce sustainable development activities which could be of benefit to the Badia people. Profound changes over the past ten years in the region have altered the way of life of the Beduin and have endangered scarce and fragile natural resources.

The Beduin used to be totally reliant on the resources of their *dirah* (territory), and on trade across the arid areas

between the fertile Levant and the river valleys of the Tigris and the Euphrates. They were dependent on their camels and sheep and had little contact with settled communities at the edge of the Badia. However, with international borders drawn, pipelines built, vehicles and livestock subsidies introduced and the local water sources tapped for pumping to Amman, the Beduin have had to change too.

Research should ensure that any future development is appropriate. Dr Roderic Dutton, the UK director of the programme and the director of Durham University's Centre for Overseas Research and Development, says: "The scientists are studying everything from the Badia's anthropology, demography and economics to its land and water resources. Of critical importance will be the programme's ability to apply this new knowledge in the interests of beneficial, sustainable development."

The research programme is just the beginning of a new life for the abandoned pipeline pumping station and, possibly, for the people of the Badia.

Nigel Winsor, deputy director of the Royal Geographical Society, believes the programme will establish a permanent geographical research base in the region. "It is a privilege to be working with the Jordanians on this project," he says. "We are tapping traditional knowledge and the new computer and satellite technologies. If we can make a bridge between these, we hope it will be of value to similar areas of the arid world."

MATTHEW BRACE

King to give his eyes to hospital

Mobile medics beat blockades by taking service to village outposts

THE WORK at the British-funded St John Ophthalmic Hospital in east Jerusalem is held in such high regard by King Hussein that he has bequeathed his eyes to be used for research, Michael Kallenbach writes.

The hospital, rebuilt in 1960, has 74 beds, but it treats more than 50,000 patients a year. Many come from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Because the Israeli Government often orders the area be cut off after sporadic acts of terrorism, the hospital has developed a highly successful "outreach" programme — mobile units visit tiny villages so that treatment can be administered.

"We establish a clinic as we arrive and word quickly spreads once we are there," says John Mills, the London-based spokesman for the hospital.

Richard Dennis, the assistant administrator at the charity's London office, says that this means it is either "fast or flood" for both staff and patients. However, he adds that there is excellent co-

operation with top levels of the Israeli Government about the running of the hospital.

British doctors and nurses regularly volunteer their services and time — some for two weeks, some up to a year — and work alongside Palestinian staff.

"A young doctor will not see the variety of eye diseases and related problems in a year in a London hospital that he will see with us," Mr Dennis adds. "It adds tremendous value to their careers."

The hospital, which costs more than £2.8 million a year to run, is part of the St John Ambulance. A British warden and chief surgeon are appointed for a five-year period. Like other charities it relies on the generosity of the public — not only in Britain, but among donors in America and Commonwealth countries — for support.

Because of the location, several donations come from the Arab world. "We are aware of the sensitivities about our location," says Mr Mills, "but naturally it is our aim to continue our work."

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Christopher Walker reports on King Husain's return to the centre of the Middle East stage

Calm voice in a world of tension

King Husain today celebrates his sixtieth birthday at the most crucial moment of a reign extraordinary even by the turbulent standards of the Middle East in which he has seen both peace and war, as well as surviving a string of assassination threats.

The murder of his former enemy and later close friend Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister of Israel, has posed concerns for Jordan just as the strategic desert kingdom was harking in the success of last month's Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit, at which more than 700 business people from more than 60 countries met to exploit what is commonly known as the "peace dividend".

In advance of Mr Rabin's assassination and its still unfathomable repercussions for the oil-rich region, the summit was seen as setting the seal on the new order in the Hashemite Kingdom after its remarkable recovery from a severe economic crisis and the political trauma caused by the King's attitude towards the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis and war.

In characteristic fashion, the Jordanian monarch has bounced back from the diplomatic isolation prompted by what was seen as his sympathy for President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to a point where tiny Jordan with its mixed population of Palestinians and East Bankers has been challenging Egypt, the most populous Arab state, for the key central position in the Arab world.

American anger at the absence of Jordan from the coalition which forced Saddam's invading troops out of Kuwait has been replaced by respect and gratitude for the King's recent decision to welcome the defecting Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel, Saddam's influential son-in-law, and to speak out against the excesses of the Iraqi regime.

Jordan's return to the centre of the Middle East stage has been made more dramatic because there is now talk of a new axis of Jordan, Israel and a post-Saddam Iraq being formed in the area to challenge the other regional superpower, Iran, whose ruling mullahs do not disguise their fury at the peace moves which led to the historic peace treaty with Israel in 1994.

The hostility of the Islamic militants to the Sandhurst-trained King's more benign brand of Islam (he is a direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad and a deeply religious man despite an earlier playboy image), has been matched by the genuine admiration felt for him by many ordinary Israelis.

"Through the behaviour of Husain, we are learning that all Arabs need not be distrusted," said one Jewish admirer. Moti Cohen, a headline reserve army driver from the Jerusalem suburb of Talpuz.

While President Mubarak of Egypt — who underneath his flowery Arab rhetoric is known to be jealous of

Jordan's renewed strategic and economic prominence — has always qualified his willingness to promote a genuinely "warm peace" with Israel, the King showed with his moving and eloquent eulogy at Mr Rabin's funeral on Jerusalem's Mount Herzl that he has no such reservations.

and Jews. "When my time comes, I hope it will be like my grandfather's and like Yitzhak Rabin's," the King told assembled heads of state and dignitaries. "Never in all my thoughts would it occur to me that my first visit to Jerusalem in response to your invitation, the invitation of the speaker of the



King Husain, who is 60 today, with Queen Noor, his wife

In a tribute that moved the entire Israeli nation and sharply raised the King's stature as perhaps, now the leading statesman in the Middle East, he reminded mourners that he had been present in front of the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem when his courageous grandfather, King Abdullah, was assassinated during an earlier bid to promote co-operation between Arabs

Knesset, the invitation of the President of Israel, would be on such an occasion.

The King, who later wiped away his tears, added: "We are not ashamed. We are not afraid. Nor are we anything but determined to fulfil the legacy for which my friend fell, as did my grandfather in this very city when I was with him and but a young boy."

To watch the oration and the King later standing at Mr Rabin's grave next to his grief-stricken wife, Queen Noor, it was striking to recall that until recently the two leaders could meet only in conditions of the utmost secrecy, such as the night they spoke while cruising the Red Sea aboard the King's darkened yacht.

The affection and respect felt for the King in Israel and in the West — where his courage is perhaps the best known factor among ordinary citizens not normally interested in Middle Eastern affairs — is matched by his subjects at home, despite the fact that many do not share his enthusiasm for full ties with the Jews.

Like all moderate Arab leaders, the King has had to deal with the growth of Islamic fundamentalism. It has swept through the Arab world and found ready converts among disaffected youths who are willing in increasing numbers to resort to violence to achieve their goal. However, unlike Egypt or Algeria, Jordan has chosen a gradual introduction of democracy as the weapon with which to meet the militant challenge rather than to rely totally on draconian repressive measures.

As a result, the Lower House of the Jordanian Parliament contains a bloc of 16 Islamic deputies who, along with the kingdom's powerful professional associations, are opposed to the normalisation of ties with the Israeli state. Rigid sanctions are frequently imposed on members of the associations who transgress the ban on contacts with the Israelis, opening a potentially destabilising divide between the Government and the people.

It is widely accepted by Western diplomats in Amman that, under the King's stewardship, the danger of any explosion of widespread Islamic violence or internal unrest is unlikely. The question which is often asked, in view of the King's age and recent health problems, is how capable his named successor, Crown Prince Hassan, his Oxford-educated younger brother, will be in holding together a country which is vital to the future harmony of the region.

The Prince, the only prominent Arab statesman who is fluent in Hebrew, is regarded as a highly competent technocrat who will carry on his brother's legacy. In recent years the Prince has built up a loyal following inside Jordan's ruthlessly efficient security forces.

Although lacking his elder brother's regal charisma, his chances of eventually steering Jordan on its present ambitious and increasingly prosperous course are considered to be good. But, as with all predictions in the volatile Middle East, the chances of some random act of violence upsetting the present relative calm can never be ruled out.

United by tourism

Former enemies now plan joint airport

Since Petra's rediscovery in 1912 by an Anglo-Swiss traveller, the ancient Nabatean city has been enjoyed mainly by the more adventurous tourist, Michael Theodorou writes.

It is accessible only through a towering, mile-long gorge carved from the same rose-red sandstone as Petra's majestic monuments. Romanesque, no doubt with Lawrence of Arabia or Glubb Pasha in mind, enter the city on horseback. Now, for the first time, Petra and Jordan face the challenges of mass tourism.

Last year's unexpectedly swift peace treaty with Israel has spawned a tourist boom. Joint promotion of the region by Israel and Jordan enables tourists from North America and Europe to share their stay in the Holy Land between the two countries.

Jordan's attractions are many and there is little hyperbole in the description by tourism officials of their country as one of the world's biggest open-air museums. Popular sites apart from Petra include Greco-Roman ruins at Jerash and Amman, Islamic and crusader castles, the barren beauty of the Dead Sea, the bustling Red Sea resort of Aqaba, with its fine seafood restaurants and diving facilities on the Yamanieh coral reef.

The Government views the sector as crucial to future economic growth and, with its own financial resources limited, is encouraging private investment to tap the country's tourist assets.

The challenge will be to preserve the delicate environmental balance and romance of sites like Petra while capitalising on their potential. Both the Government and the private sector want well-heeled, ecologically minded middle-class tourists who will not place too great a strain on limited water resources and underprepared infrastructure. Although welcome, Israeli daytrippers, sometimes clutching packed lunches, do not really conform to Jordan's ideal of the perfect tourist.



Tourist attraction: El Khazneh, the ancient Treasury

Yet joint development projects with Israel are seen as vital to cash in on Jordan's tourism market. A priority "peace project" is the development of a joint Jordanian-Israeli airport at Aqaba to service the neighbouring resort of Eilat in Israel and to provide relief for Amman's Queen Alia international airport. The two former enemies are also planning a theme park on the southern shores of the Dead Sea.

To catch up with tourism development on the Dead Sea, Jordan plans to develop 36 miles of shoreline under the ambitious \$500 million Dead Sea Tourism Project. It envis-

ages the construction of 15,000 hotel rooms and 18,000 housing units by the year 2010. Jordanian tourism officials maintain there will be controlled growth and, if it comes to a choice between tourism and antiquities, antiquities will win.

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The St John Ophthalmic Hospital Jerusalem organises 12 day tours of Jordan and the Holy Land in association with Maranatha Tours (Euro) Ltd. Details from Mrs Holmes Tel: 0171 235 5231.

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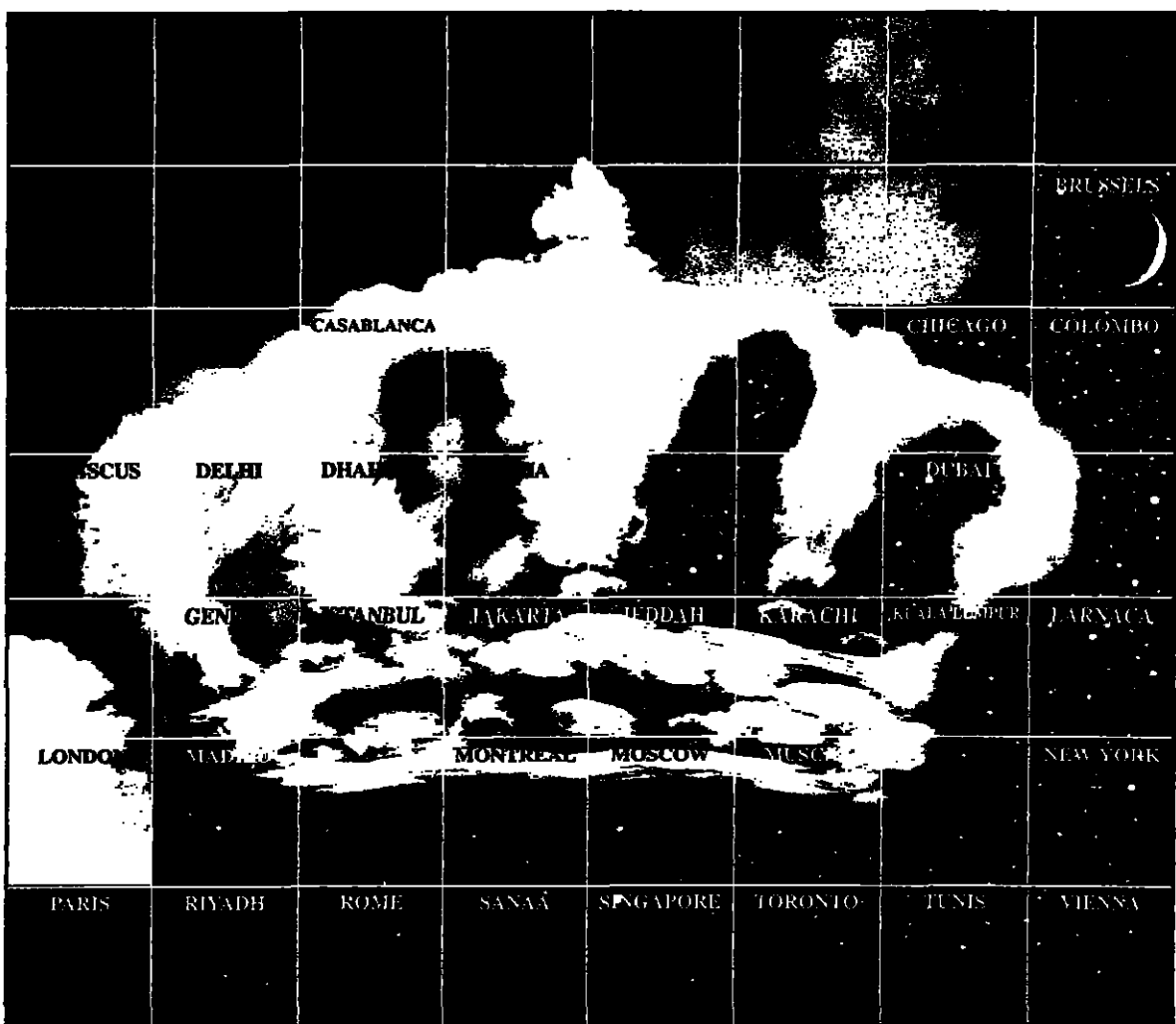
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Your Window on the World

Time to pick out the players who have excelled in Interactive Team Football

Ferdinand leads way in search for dream team

Interactive Team Football (ITF) is in full swing and, with only two Premiership games left, now seems a suitable time to take stock and identify the players who are leading the way in each category.

The success of any team — be it in the ITF or reality — is directly related to the power of its forwards, and the ITF "dream team" can boast a partnership to strike fear into the heart of any defence. The pairing of Les Ferdinand, of Newcastle, and Alan Shearer, of Blackburn Rovers, forms the most lethal combination ITF has to offer. Ferdinand's 33 points are the most registered by any ITF player and Shearer is next in the pecking order with 33. Shearer's contribution is all the more praiseworthy as he hails from a team struggling for form in the Premiership.

To provide the chances for our sharp-shooting duo are a quartet of young guns in midfield that would be the pride of any Premiership club. Robert Lee, of Newcastle, and Craig Hignett, of Middlesbrough, are the joint midfield leaders on 25 points.

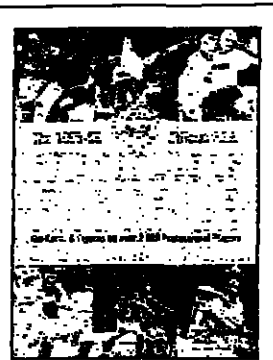
Lee's team-mate, Keith Gillespie, and Steve McManaman, of Liverpool, have both registered 22 points and would provide dynamic support. Paul Merson could have been selected either, his 22 points proof that the Arsenal player has put last season's problems firmly behind him.

Steve Vickers, of Middlesbrough, and Tony Adams, of Arsenal, are the rocks on which the team's central defence would be built. Adams is in typically resolute mood again this season and his 28 points demonstrate the solidity with which he has underpinned Arsenal's successful run. Middlesbrough's defence has proved a revelation and the seam of form Vickers has enjoyed has seen him garner 26 points in ITF.

When it comes to full backs, the Arsenal pairing of Lee Dixon and Nigel Winterburn are out on their own. Both



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□ Win one of 300 copies of the authoritative 1995-6 Official PFA Footballers' Yearbook, published by Stanley Paul, by making a transfer in the ITF this week. The book provides a comprehensive guide to the players of England and Wales and is ideal for all fans. Winners will be chosen at random.

players have scored 24 points in ITF, leaving them five points clear of any other full back. Dixon has earned international accolade with England. Winterburn receives fewer accolades, but the

Arsenal full back is no less effective in ITF terms.

With three of the four defenders playing in front of him included in our "dream team", it is no surprise that David Seaman is the most effective No 1 in ITF. But take nothing away from Seaman, who has turned in some excellent performances and proved consistency is his forte.

Finally, who better to organise our side than Kevin Keegan. The Newcastle manager is, not surprisingly, the leader in his category with 33 points.

The ITF "dream team" in full comprises: Manager: Kevin Keegan (Newcastle); goalkeeper: David Seaman (Arsenal); full backs: Nigel Winterburn (Arsenal), Lee Dixon (Arsenal); central defenders: Tony Adams (Arsenal), Steve Vickers (Middlesbrough); midfielders: Robert Lee (Newcastle), Craig Hignett (Middlesbrough), Steve McManaman (Liverpool), Keith Gillespie (Newcastle); strikers: Les Ferdinand (Newcastle), Alan Shearer (Blackburn).

If you have been fired by the desire to bring your own team closer to the ITF ideal, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system which allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload and who you replace him with is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute plus VAT, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from the Republic of Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and it will cost you 59p per minute for your call.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prizes.

□ All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016. For all other general inquiries please use 01582 488 122.



Juninho, the Brazilian gracing Middlesbrough, can be purchased for £5 million in the ITF but he is a marked man in the Premiership

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Cup Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Appearances†	1pt
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Manager	3pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Team wins	1pt
Midfield player	3pts	Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Scores goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Score own goal	1pt
All players	3pts	Manager	1pt
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 70 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

* Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 59p.
If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be typed in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 6am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday; from 6pm on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6am.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would rectify any overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player out	Club	Code	Pin
Player in	Club	Code	Pin

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

Code	Player	Club	Value
50605	D Huckerby	Newcastle	£0.5
Code	Player	Club	Value
42005	N McDonald	Bolton	£0.25
31404	S Webster	West Ham	£0.75

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Keweenaw Kickers	(K James)	259
2	Realistas Supers	(P Sutton)	236
3	Twilight United	(P Dillworth)	236
3	Noodles Bears	(S Cozans)	236
3	Phycho TV	(T Vardy)	236
3	Nights Night Foot	(Mr D Patel)	236
7	Lionel's Longshots	(C Loxton)	234
7	Jones Boys Six	(M Jones)	234
7	Manrid Knights	(R Jenkins)	234
7	Teddy Five	(Mr B Bear)	234
11	Stevens Lions 5	(S Brewer)	233
11	Tommy Cockles XI	(Mr P Johnson)	233
11	Rosedale Rangers	(Mr D Green)	233
14	Al's Alcorans	(A Hancock)	232
14	Belmont Rangers	(Mr D Crowe)	232
16	The Subjugators	(M Ayres)	231
16	Jessica's Darlings 4	(Mr A Nacifson)	231
16	The Young Guns	(S Shepherd)	229
18	The Good Bad & Ugly	(K Booth)	228
20	Gary's Heroes	(-)	228
21	The Premier Raiders 1	(Miss C Ellis)	227
21	Phycho And Smith	(K Booth)	227
23	Mean Machine	(Ramsesh Patel)	226
23	Kixt Utd	(R Patterson)	226
23	Sunderland Stars	(K Brown)	226
23	Gohlis Gods 65	(Mr B Gohl)	226
27	Burnell United	(R Barnham)	225
27	Tyres Blue Noses	(Mr S Tye)	225
28	Stevens Lions 7	(S Brewer)	224
28	Jeansend 1860	(S Murray)	224
29	Walsingham AFC	(Mr D Walsh)	224
29	Harrington Inter	(Mr D Lovell)	224
29	Forsby Flyers	(A Norton)	224
29	Transporter	(A Jenkins)	224
29	Wolves Of Fenric	(G Adams)	224
29	Basisset Bouncers	(J Hunt)	224
37	Gary Pearce	(G D Pearce)	223
37	Fergie Fury	(P Simpson)	223
37	Power House	(A Jassa)	223
40	OHME	(R Matthews)	222
40	Hull Red Devils	(G Foster)	222
40	Infesta	(S Daly)	222
40	Fair Fair Flapster	(C Woodward)	222
44	Grove Rovers	(T Townsend)	221
44	Edgrops United	(R Edmondson)	221
44	Long Live The Queen	(L Wilson)	221
44	Bora In Tashkent	(Mr D McMahon)	221
48	Waffing Warriors	(P Shanks)	220
48	Oh There It Is I	(P Jones)	220
48	Francis Caldwell FC	(F Caldwell)	220
51	Waters Wanderers	(Waters Wanderers)	219
51	Sevens Legal	(M Moore)	219
51	Mac United	(T McCuskey)	219
51	Shaver Voles	(Mr P Johnson)	219
51	Glow In The Dark	(J Brasher)	219
51	Champions 1995-96	(J Smith)	219
58	Fudge's Foulers	(I Abu Heleh)	218
58	My Cat Bailey	(Mr P Johnson)	218
58	Becky's Babes	(D Ready)	218
58	The UK Beavers	(J Elkins)	218
62	The Cake Eaters	(Mr S Hughes)	217
62	No Defence OK	(J Portwood)	217
62	Widford Wanderers FC	(G Lee)	217
62	Nirvana FC	(Mr J Donovan)	217
62	Twinkltoons Two	(J Brown)	217
67	Parlane	(E Donald)	216
67	Jaynes Jugs	(K Hughes)	216
67	Dreamer Fifth	(Mr G Wesson)	216

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING

Call the ITF checkline on 0891 774 796

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from 6am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday; from 6pm on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6am.

70	Scud 4	(P Hyman)	215
70	Golden Boots	(A Marshall)	215
70	MI 1 Blues	(P Jordan)	215
70	Robbo's Army	(P Callaghan)	215
70	Malcolm Hair XI	(C Wilcock)	215
70	June XI	(J Hayes)	215
70	Barnet FC	(Mr P Johnson)	215
70	Baza Bruisers	(Mr B Harwood)	215
70	Here We Go	(S Smith)	215
70	Newcastle Browns 2	(B MacLennan)	215
70	Can't's Notshots	(C Carmichael)	215
70	Brown Montego	(H Davies)	215
82	Mign	(M Morgan)	214
82	Goal Diggers	(C Stacey)	214
82	Adams' Sneakers	(M Sladden)	214
82	The Others	(M Miller)	214
82	The Cutting Edge	(Mr A Weston)	214
82	The Talent	(S Cole)	214
82	Waffley Wanderers	(S Whalley)	214
82	Websters	(C B Mitchell)	213
89	Richies Rovers	(Mr J Taylor)	213
89	View Forth	(M Haugh)	213
89	Wallace Wanderers	(S Mulligan)	213
89	S M Balance 5	(L Jones)	213
89	Jones Boys Four	(D Summerhill)	213
95	Rovers FC	(D Burt)	212
95	Donnas Doughnuts	(Mr M Wasik)	212
95	Betty's Reserves	(Mrs G Jamison)	212
95	Dicks Delight	(Mr W Davisworth)	212
95	Abbas	(G Brooks)	212
95	Brooksbrough	(Mr J Reader)	212
95	Al-Joudi Fox	(M Clark)	212
95	Not Got A Chance	(Mr G Keynes)	212
95	Real Athletics	(S Burns)	212
95	Bohannon Forest	(Mr T Thompson)	212
95	Henry Hilda	(N Laine)	212
95	Lam's Utd	(S Lawton)	212
95	Goats Galore	(A Graver)	212
108	Norfolk N Good	(P Harris)	211
108	Lastonville City	(G Sutton)	211
108	Kings Kickers		211

108	L	(L Brown)	211
108	The Conjurors	(Mr D Farmer)	211
108	Gales Champions	(M Gale)	211
108	Sharon's Budds	(D Conroy)	211
108	Home Park Heroes	(Mrs J MacKenzie)	211
108	Goatsie Softboard	(C Armitage)	211
108	Beardleys Hair	(Mr P Johnson)	211
108	The Celts	(P O'Connor)	211
108	Disaster Area	(S Potage)	211
108	Woodford Rangers	(J Hawkes)	211
108	FC wombles	(A Williams)	211
108	Forman's Finest	(A Forman)	211
123	Peterson's Dreamers	(M Peterson)	210
123	Latham Latics	(W Latham)	210
123	Armstrong	(A Matthews)	210
123	MI 5 Alstars	(E Scott)	210
123	Stevens Lions 2	(M Stayman)	210
123	Anti-Selena	(S Brewer)	210
123	Dirty Boogers	(J Lawson)	210
123	Chapmonke	(G Falkowick)	210
123	Mighty Men 1	(Mrs S Hancock)	210
123	The Black Knights	(C Marshall)	210
123	Russell 1	(R Green)	210
123	PSV Bismark	(D Shuter)	210
123	The Tazman Conneth 2	(L A McCole)	210
123	Midflits Pathetic	(Mr P Ashok)	210
123	Oh Nicky Evans	(Mrs J Granger)	210
123	Dicks Dudes	(Mr Johnson)	210
123	Sunlight	(R Milson)	210
123	Starke FC	(D Adhwar)	210
123	Dieson Dynamo	(A Kousoudis)	210
123	Alan Sugars Huge Ego	(R Hawkes)	210
123	Hall Utd	(N Emmerson)	209
123	Novocastrians	(T Hall)	209
123	The French Do	(C Donald)	209
123	Stevens Lions 6	(C E Youds)	209
123	A Team	(S Brewer)	209
123	Taylor Codrains	(A James)	209
123	Greenwood FC	(J Taylor)	209
123	The Warbirds	(R Greenhalgh)	209
123	Laytons Lions	(K Anwar)	209
123	Monster Monster	(Mr R Layton)	209
123	Busted Broncos	(M Parish)	209
123	Jacobbooks FC	(C Wadland)	209
123	Sheep's Super Squad	(G Bahadji)	209
123	Venus XI	(A Kousoudis)	209
123	Synthetic Dozen	(B Betchelor)	209
123	A C Dundee	(Mr J Donkison)	209
123	Med XI	(F McDonald)	209
123	No Fear Utd	(Drogdon)	209
123	Fantasy FC	(G Saunders)	209
123	Doogs	(D Venn)	209
123	Mercury	(R Booth)	209
123	Nanou	(F Hanna)	209
123	Inner Red Dragon	(Dalwood)	209
123	Marion's Men FC	(G Bahadji)	209
123	He'll's Nobblers	(D Williams)	209
123	Good Times United	(J Morton)	209
123	Good Work Fellas	(Mr B O'Sullivan)	209
123	One Under Par	(Mr J Stableford)	209
123	Janyjedia	(J Cook)	209
123	Georgi Best	(C Bird)	209
123	Morts Mate 20	(J Baker)	209
123	ADS Sign Shearer	(S Whitley)	209
123	Abyssinians	(Mr M Hirt)	209
123	Flaming Rockets	(Mr P Johnson)	209
123	Millers Reserves	(Mr A Tyerman)	209
123		(T Hall)	209
123		(I Davies)	209

160	Sporting Siders	(K Doughty)	207
160	Willy's Wanderers	(J Merritt)	207
160	Black Strap	(K Meakings)	207
160	Sorted City	(I Ashwood)	207
160	Pont Panthers III	(R Kofhar)	207
160	Oceanic Eleven	(M Davies)	207
160	Wharfedale	(Mr P Johnson)	207
160	Why Danny Dicks	(R James)	207
160	Check Association	(A Bahadur)	207
160	Team Puffles	(S Anderson)	207
160	Broken Arrow	(P Purdy)	207
160	Jason Lee United	(Mr J Thomas)	207
160	Vip Men Rovers	(M Garner)	207
160	Ryan Utd	(R Stroud)	207
160	Wilbos Villains	(P G Willets)	206
160	G Force	(W Gayle)	206
160	C	(M Corless)	206
160	Flagline Flyers	(E Ronald)	206
160	Silicon Rovers	(S Cowan)	206
160	Percys Progress	(M Parnell)	206
160	We're Not Boring	(W Gask)	206
160	Just For Fun	(R Nicholson)	206
160	Outsiders	(C Mill-Hornes)	206
160	Gohlis Gods 34	(Mr R Gohl)	206
160	Pertham Boogard I	(Mr D Stokovic)	206
160	Crofton Rangers	(G Moss)	206
160	The Butler	(T Higgs)	206
160	Chumpdoria	(I Broadsmith)	206
160	Map 6	(M Priestley)	206
160	Albion XI	(D Dunn)	206
160	The Dream Team II	(C Farrell)	206
160	Old Terry-Fowler	(S Sawyer)	206
160	Andy's Athletic	(A Howse)	206
160	Team Fabulous	(R Moleary)	206
160	One Way United	(Mr S Taylor)	206
160	Robbie's Rovers	(R Dick)	206
160	The Jakies	(M Adams)	206
160	No Hoppers	(S Harris)	206
160	Howard's Hoytits	(C Howard)	206
160	Overhill Rovers	(Mr M James)	206
160	Tiggers Two	(L Lindstrom)	206
160	Others	(Mr M Shaikh)	206
160	Robards Rovers	(R Cook)	206
225	Wardens Wanderers	(S Warden)	206
225	PSV Winofron	(D Hawcock)	206
225	Eaton Forgers	(M Davison)	206
225	Zinc Alloys	(D Rooney)	206
225	Micks Skill Monsters	(M Meldrum)	206
225	Batham 1980	(A Tyler)	206
225	Team Three	(R Platt)	206
225	Little Bit Of Magic	(P Lavender)	206
225	Maverick	(Mr P Magyar)	206
225	Venus Sports	(D Nichols)	206
225	I Love Esther	(Mr P Johnson)	206
225	Warbreck Misfits	(C Lang)	206
225	Breds Bounders	(Mrs B Brett)	206
225	Meets United	(M Parikh)	206
225	Tabletoppers XII	(D Marsh)	206
225	Esther My Lovely	(Mr P Johnson)	206
225	Mercer's Men	(D Bowfors)	206
225	Moneybags United	(P Eardge)	206
225	Castle Street Boot Boy	(G McCurley)	206
225	Cable Coppers	(G Langeley)	206
225	Egerton Park	(D Rhodes)	206
225	Strawberry Dynamo	(D Ball)	206
247	Gujar Khan United	(F Mahmood)	204
247	Dusty All Stars	(K M Bailey)	204
247	The Wags On Top	(K Cochrane)	204

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

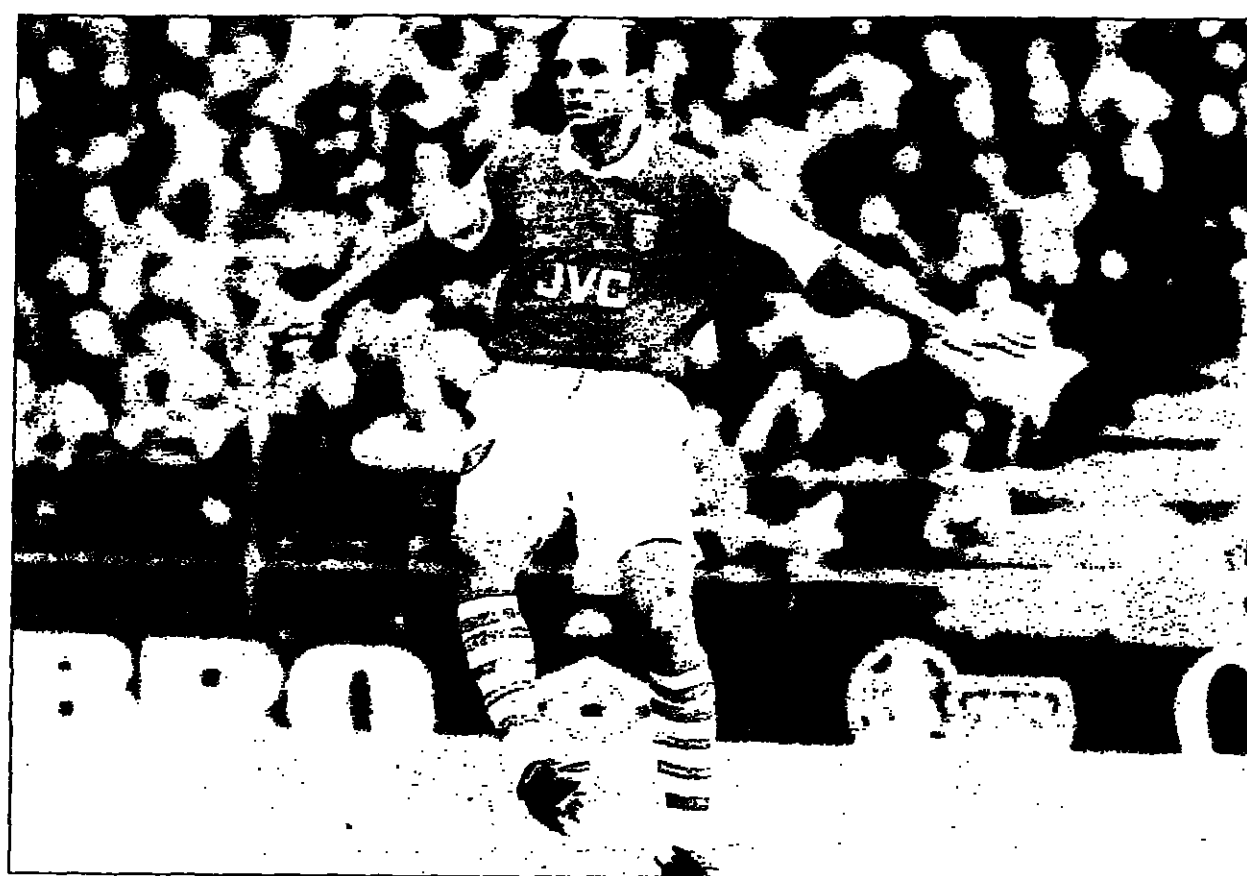
GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pls
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-1	-21
10102	R Mims	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	0	+3
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-1	-2
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	0	+12
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	1.50	0	0
10501	L Lukic	Leeds United	3.00	0	0
10502	M Beesley	Leeds United	0.75	0	0
10601	M Strydom	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10701	I Walker	Newcastle United	3.00	+5	+11
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	-21
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	0
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	-11
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	0
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
10903	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-28
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0	0
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	0	-12
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+7
11102	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	0	0
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	+28
11202	K Bessman	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
11301	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+2
11302	L Miklosko	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	0
11401	L Sealey	West Ham United	2.50	0	0
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0	-4
11502	J Kearton	Everton	0.75	0	0
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
11603	J Folan	Coventry City	1.50	0	-28
11701	A Coton	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11703	E Emmel	Manchester City	2.00	0	-18
11801	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+14
11802	N Spink	Aston Villa	1.00	0	0
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+19
12001	K Brannagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-30
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pls
20101	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	-2
20102	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	-1	-4
20103	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+1
20201	D Parfitt	Manchester United	4.50	0	+6
20202	G Parker	Manchester United	2.50	0	+4
20203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	0	+1
20204	P Neville	Manchester United	0.75	0	+1
20301	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.50	+3	+14
20302	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+11
20303	A-J Haaland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
20401	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	+14
20402	S-I Bjornebye	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
20403	S Harkness	Liverpool	0.75	0	+17
20501	A Dorog	Leeds United	3.50	0	+6
20502	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	0	+6
20503	N Worthington	Leeds United	1.50	0	-1
20504	K Sharp	Leeds United	0.50	0	0
20601	J Berastford	Newcastle United	3.00	+4	+19
20602	M Hottiger	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0
20603	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	+4	+18
20701	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	-7
20702	J Edinburg	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	-3
20703	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	-1
20704	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
20705	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	-4
20801	D Bardsley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	-5
20802	R Brevett	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-4
20803	N Zelic	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	-1
20901	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.50	0	+2
20902	G Elkins	Wimbledon	1.50	-3	-11
20903	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	1.50	-3	-13
21001	J Dodd	Southampton	0.75	0	0
21002	F Benali	Southampton	1.00	0	+1
21003	S Charlton	Southampton	1.00	0	+1
21101	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.50	0	+3
21102	S Minto	Chelsea	1.50	0	+3
21103	G Hall	Chelsea	0.50	0	+4
21104	A Myers	Chelsea	0.50	0	+9
21201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	+24
21202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	+24
21203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
21301	D Petrescu	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+1
21302	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+12
21303	P Altherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+7
21401	J Hicks	West Ham United	3.50	0	+4
21402	T Breacker	West Ham United	3.00	0	-2
21403	K Brown	West Ham United	0.75	0	0
21404	K Rowland	West Ham United	0.75	0	+3
21501	G Ablett	Everton	2.50	0	+10
21502	E Barrett	Everton	2.50	0	+4
21503	M Jackson	Everton	1.50	0	-2
21601	P Holmes	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
21602	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	-2
21603	A Pickering	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
21604	S Morgan	Coventry City	0.75	0	-12
21701	T Phelan	Manchester City	1.50	0	-5
21702	R Edgill	Manchester City	1.50	0	-5
21703	D Brightwell	Manchester City	0.75	0	0
21704	J Foster	Manchester City	0.75	0	-1
21801	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+19
21802	S Staunton	Aston Villa	4.50	0	+4
21803	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+18
21804	P King	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21805	B Small	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21901	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+20
21902	N Cox	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+19
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	0
21904	C Fleming	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-9
22001	G Bergeson	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	0	-11
22002	S Green	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	-9
22003	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+2
22004	A Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+2
22005	S McAnespie	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pls
30101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+1
30102	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+3
30103	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
30104	A Reed	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
30201	S Bruce	Manchester United	4.50	0	+14
30202	G Pallister	Manchester United	1.50	0	0
30203	D May	Nottingham Forest	3.50	0	+12
30301	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+6
30302	S Chettle	Liverpool	3.00	0	+16
30401	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0	+16
30402	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.50	0	-1
30403	J Scales	Liverpool	1.00	0	+15
30404	M Wright	Liverpool	0.75	0	+4
30501	D Matteo	Leeds United	3.50	0	+12
30502	C Palmer	Leeds United	3.00	0	-1
30503	J Pemberton	Leeds United	1.50	0	+1
30504	P Beesley	Leeds United	1.50	0	0
30505	R Johnson	Newcastle United	4.00	0	+3
30601	P Albert	Newcastle United	3.00	+4	+22
30602	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	+4	+19
30603	D Peacock	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	-4
30701	G Mabbitt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	-3
30702	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	-1
30703	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0
30704	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
30705	J Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0



Steve Bould is in prime position to assess rival Premiership forwards from the heart of the Arsenal defence

Bould policy rewarded

TRYING to pick a team within the £35 million limit was more than a bit restrictive and I had to make some key decisions after my selection looked like being a bit hit and miss.

I started off by picking three key players in Neville Southall, Colin Hendry and Les Ferdinand. I thought the goalkeeper, Southall, would have let in fewer goals than he has and I had rather hung my hat on him. That probably explains why I'm not doing quite so well as I'd hoped.

Hendry, too, hasn't done as well as I'd hoped and Blackburn's poor performance so far has been one of the surprises of the season. When you look at how they did last year, no one would have thought they would have conceded so many goals. But Alan Shearer is still scoring a lot for them and that's no surprise to anyone.

The other surprise is Middlesbrough and how well they have done. At the start of the season I don't think anyone really gave them too much of a chance. You could have purchased their defensive players for next to nothing; you could almost steal them. Now, when you look at their defensive record, their defenders were the bargain of the year.

The performance of Middlesbrough has done me a lot of good because I have Neil Cox in my side. The way he is playing this season is not unexpected, though: I always thought he was a good

Steve Bould, one half of the Arsenal central defensive pairing, on his ITF choice

player when he was at Aston Villa and at £1 million he's been a good buy. When it came to spending £8 million on Les Ferdinand I thought he was well worth the money. I knew he would score plenty of goals and he's been earning heaps of points which is very good news. The rest of the team was picked to fit in with the budget. I went for David Batty because at £1.5 million he was in my price range. But I was amazed at how cheap he was. He's not a big goal-scorer but he's a good player and at that price he's a snip.

BOULD'S SELECTIONS

Goalkeeper:	N Southall	(Everton)	£2.5m
Full backs:	J Edinburg	(Tottenham)	£1.5m
	N Cox	(Middlesbrough)	£1.0m
Centre backs:	C Hendry	(Blackburn)	£4.5m
	K Monkou	(Southampton)	£1.5m
Middlefielders:	D Batty	(Blackburn)	£1.5m
	I Taylor	(Aston Villa)	£2.0m
	A Hinchcliffe	(Everton)	£5.0m
	L Shearer	(Man United)	£3.0m
Strikers:	L Ferdinand	(Newcastle)	£8.0m
	G Penrice	(QPR)	£1.0m
Manager:	B Rich	(Arsenal)	£3.5m

At first, I had Roy Keane on my list but then the finances took over and I had to change him for Ian Taylor, of Aston Villa. But Taylor has got one or two goals and with Keane's disciplinary problems that turned out to be a good bit of business.

I picked Gary Penrice, of Queens Park Rangers, for the same reason — I was running out of money after buying Ferdinand. He doesn't play as often as I would like, but he still chips in with a goal or two, so for £1 million he's not a bad buy as a striker.

If I had my choice and was able to pick whoever I liked, I think I would have gone for a few of the Arsenal players. Things are going well for us at the moment and I would have liked to have gone for David Seaman, Tony Adams, either of the full backs and Wright. But, unfortunately, that would have been way over my price limit. I'm not surprised that the people who are doing well in Interactive Team Football (ITF) have all put Seaman in goal — he doesn't let many in and scores loads of points.

It was Lee Dixon who got us all involved in this and he's got all the rules and regulations and all our pin numbers. At the club, we have a little private bet going: it's not worth much but there is a lot of pride at stake. The other week I asked Dixon how we were all doing and he went very quiet.

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pls
41406	D Gordon	West Ham United	1.00	0	0
41409	R Slater	West Ham United	1.00	0	+11
41410	S Lazarides	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2
41411	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	0	+5
41501	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	5.00	0	+10
41502	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	0	+3
41503	A Lomax	Everton	2.50	0	+14
41504	B Home	Everton	1.50	0	+8
41505	V Samways	Everton	1.50	0	+5
41506	J Parkinson	Everton	1.00	0	+15
41508	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0	+2
41509	A Kanchelskis	Everton	6.00	0	+9
41601	P Cook	Coventry City	2.00	0	+1
41602	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	0	+10
41603	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1
41605	L Jenkinson	Coventry City	0.95	0	0
41606	J Darby	Coventry City	0.95	0	0
41607	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	0	+14
41608	Isalas	Coventry City	3.00	0	+7
41609	C Batista	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
41610	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	0	+14
41701	G Filcroft	Manchester City	2.50	0	+5
41702	P Beagrie	Manchester City	3.00	0	+3
41703	S Lomas	Manchester City	1.50	0	+9
41704	I Brightwell	Manchester City	1.50	0	+3
41706	N Summerville	Manchester City	1.50	0	+11
41707	G Kinkladze	Manchester City	1.50	0	+13
41801	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+11
41802	M Patterson	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+1
41803	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+17
41804	G Fenton	Aston Villa	0.95	0	0
41805	F Carr	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
41806	M Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+21
41901	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+25
41902	A Moore	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	0
41903	J Moreno	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	0
41904	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	0.95	0	+14
41905	J Pollock	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+14
41906	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	0
41907	Juninho	Middlesbrough	5.00	0	0
42002	D Lee	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+5
42003	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+12
42004	R Sneekes	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	+4
42005	M Patterson	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	0	+8
42006	N McDonald	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	0	0
42007	W Burnett	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

STRIKERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pls
50101	A Shearer	Blackburn Rovers	10.00	+1	+33
50102	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	7.00	0	+6
50103	M Newell	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+7
50104	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+1
50201	E Cantona	Manchester United	7.50	0	+6
50202	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00	0	+11

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Warne turns the screw on Pakistan

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14 1995

Barclays chief links tax cuts to rate rises

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

INTEREST rates will be forced up if the Chancellor makes big tax cuts in his Budget, Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays Bank, said yesterday.

In the most icy warning yet from industry, Mr Buxton, also chairman of the economic affairs committee of the Confederation of British Industry, urged the Chancellor not to listen to his "extreme backbenchers."

Britain's economy is already faltering under the impact of tax rises imposed in 1993, weak consumer confidence and slowing export markets, Mr Buxton told business leaders in Birmingham at the CBI's annual conference.

"Large personal tax cuts... would, in the long run, make the situation worse because interest rates would rise."

Opening a debate on the state of the economy, Mr Buxton said: "there is a risk

that what was widely described a couple of months ago as a growth pause, is now lengthening into more prolonged stagnation." Growth had slowed from 4 per cent a year ago to an expected 2.4 per cent this year, he said. But manufacturing growth had slowed to just 1 per cent a year, and the construction sector was technically in recession.

CBI leaders are convinced economic fundamentals are good, after the programme of labour reforms and deregulation undertaken by the Conservatives since 1979. Sir Bryan Nicholson, CBI president, said he remained "cautiously optimistic" about 1996.

But "being cautiously optimistic is a long way from being complacent." Urging the Chancellor to take no risks with the economy, he said the Budget would require a "delicate balancing act" to rekindle economic growth. The CBI

thinks Mr Clarke's best help would be to avoid any upward pressure on interest rates and to encourage investment. Many industry chiefs are furious that the Government's Private Finance Initiative, supposed to stimulate private-sector investment in infrastructure — has caused a hiatus in public sector investment that has cost the construction sector a year's work.

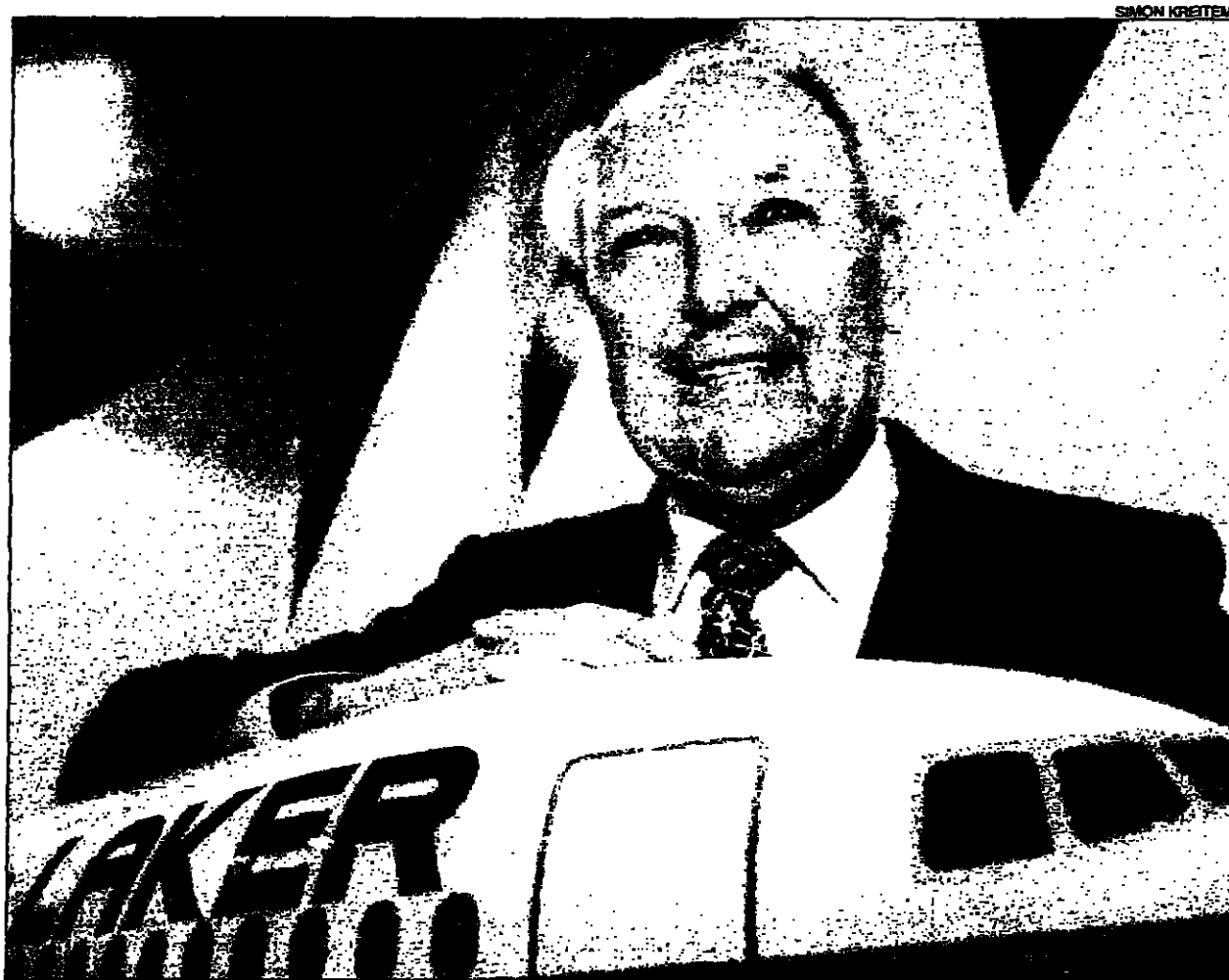
In Budget submissions, the CBI has asked the Chancellor to cut the lower rate of Corporation Tax from 25 per cent to 20 per cent, and to allow companies to write off against tax everything spent on plant and machinery up to £200,000 in the first year. "We, and the Government, know that our present levels of investment are too low," Mr Buxton said.

Roger Bootle, chief economist of HSBC Holdings, the parent company of Midland Bank, said the Conservatives had made three errors: failing to cut public spending, encouraging a property boom in the 1980s, and relying too heavily on an overvalued exchange rate in the inflation battle. As a result, Britain's manufacturing sector was too small, investment too low, and there was "a tail of poorly performing companies." Insisting "inflation is dead," he called for public spending cuts, lower taxes and interest rates.

His analysis was shared by Patrick Minford, economics professor at Liverpool University and one of the "six wise men" who advise the Chancellor. Prof Minford said labour market reforms have given the UK economy the capacity to grow 4 per cent a year for the next six years. But the monetary authorities were still fighting yesterday's battles with inflation. Real interest rates, at 5 per cent, were more than twice those of the US and Germany.

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Laker II reaches for the skies



Standing by for take-off again: Sir Freddie Laker plans to sell 163,000 transatlantic airline seats a year on up to ten flights a week when his new airline is launched next March. Details of the US-based Laker Airways Inc were unveiled yesterday at the World Travel Market in London. It is 13 years since the original Laker Airways collapsed.

Blow for Stock Exchange as Salomon pulls out of Seaq

By PHILIP PANGALOS

IN ANOTHER blow to the London Stock Exchange's European ambitions, Salomon Brothers, the leading US investment bank, has decided to shift its European equity business away from London to other local European exchanges.

Salomon confirmed that it would stop trading European stocks through Seaq International, the Exchange's quote-driven trading facility, and instead conduct all its European trades directly on local markets. A spokesman said that no jobs would be lost as the company would continue to conduct European trades from its London offices.

The decision by Salomon to effectively abandon Seaq International has been a continuing process, since an increasing amount of its European equity business over the past few years has been

transacted on local exchanges such as Frankfurt, Paris and Milan.

Salomon's withdrawal, which is likely to be completed in the next few weeks, comes after similar moves by NatWest Securities and UBS, the leading marketmakers, to reduce the use of Seaq in favour of other local bourses. Rudolph Mueller, chairman of UBS UK, a division of Union Bank of Switzerland, recently accused the London Stock Exchange of failing to take the lead in forging co-operative arrangements with continental exchanges, effectively suggesting it had failed to transform itself into a European exchange.

London will undoubtedly remain the centre for international investment, with liquidity and regulation in the City unchallenged. However, new EU rules allowing remote membership of European bourses by members sited in other countries means that many investment

banks can choose London as their European base while executing business across the entire Continent without having a physical presence there. This was a key reason behind NatWest's decision last month to delist from nearly all continental share trading on Seaq International.

Recent moves by other European exchanges to modernise technology and trading rules have reaped rewards for them and they have gradually won back business once transacted in London. Part of the problem is that Seaq's quote-driven system is seen as inefficient, with many preferring an order-driven system.

Other leading international houses are considering similar moves to that of Salomon and many dealing houses are expected to follow suit when the EU Investment Services Directive comes into force on January 1.

Cheaper materials help factory prices

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIAL price pressures clearly eased last month, raising hopes that base rates will be able to come down early next year.

Input prices — the cost of raw materials — fell by a seasonally adjusted 0.3 per cent in October, the first monthly fall since January, 1994. This allowed the annual rate of inflation to drop back to 7.8 per cent from 9.2 per cent in September, a larger fall than the City had expected.

The year-on-year rise in output prices paid at the factory gate edged higher to 4.6 per cent from 4.5 per cent in September. But, importantly, the annual rate of core output price inflation, taking out volatile food,

drink, tobacco and petroleum — and the measure often looked at by the Bank of England — fell back to 4.8 per cent from 5.0 per cent.

Analysts have long been waiting for falling commodity prices to feed through to lower input, and eventually output, price inflation and this has finally happened.

Recent survey evidence suggests that this new, downward trend will continue and this should, depending on how the markets react to the Budget, allow base rates to fall. Most betting is on a base rate cut in the first three months of next year. The markets are now waiting for key figures on Thursday on retail prices.

Record half-year at British Steel

By COLIN NARBROUGH



Brian Moffat, left, and Philip Hampton, finance director

BRITISH STEEL notched up a record pre-tax profit of £550 million in the first half and can still see no real downturn ahead, according to Brian Moffat, the chairman and chief executive.

On the strength of "excellent" results in the six months to September 30, when earnings per share jumped to 10.28p compared with 6.49p, he said the interim dividend net per share would be increased 50 per cent to 3p, payable on January 15.

Mr Moffat highlighted the consolidation from September of Avesta-Sheffield, BS's Anglo-Swedish stainless steel arm, which was the main provider of the £107 million profits contribution from associated companies — up from £41 million.

BS's trading profit surged £313 million to £433 million,

raising group operating profit to £540 million, against £161 million. Average revenue per tonne of steel rose in all main market areas.

Mr Moffat said steel stocks were generally high in Europe. The last quarter had seen "some easing" in demand due to overstocking, a development that prompted some European steelmakers to announce production cutbacks to steady prices.

He forecast that it could take up to six months for the "temporary" destocking to ease, during which time there would be pressure on prices, keeping them flat.

BS raised its share of European sales to 33 per cent from 29 per cent. The domestic market still accounts for over half.

Temps, page 25

Markets calm as Clinton vetoes budget deficit bill

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN financial markets reacted calmly to President Clinton's veto of a Congressional bill to raise the debt ceiling which would have headed off a theoretical default on Government debt, convinced that the issue will eventually be resolved.

The dollar, which had been under pressure late last week in a nervous reaction to the current stand-off over the US budget, rebounded after Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, announced a series of auctions of Treasury bonds which he said would allow the Administration to pay \$102 billion of government debt due tomorrow and Thursday.

In spite of the sight of the Republican Congress in a

battle of wills with the President and uncertainty over how the current impasse will be solved in the longer-term, Treasury bonds rallied by about 4 points.

At issue in the current dispute is how quickly the US budget deficit, already falling, will be brought down. Republicans are pushing for swifter and deeper cuts in spending, but President Clinton, backed by opinion polls, is refusing to give in. He vetoed Congress's proposal to raise the debt ceiling because it had too many deficit-cutting conditions attached.

John Shepperd, chief international economist at Yamachi International Europe, said: "The markets are calm

because what the President and Congress are arguing about is just how virtuous they are prepared to be in bringing the deficit down. Nobody seriously thinks the US is in danger of default and the economic fundamentals are good."

Bonds were unphased by the announcement by IBCA, the European credit rating agency, that it had placed America on ratings watch for a possible downgrade of its triple A foreign and local currency long-term credit ratings. The major US agencies did not follow suit, and even IBICA said the risk of government default was very low.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET		
FT-SE 100	3836.8	(+13.4)
Yield	4.03%	
FT-SE All share	1726.92	(+4.53)
Nikkei	17789.46	(-54.10)
Dow Jones	4867.84	(-2.53)
S&P Composite	591.80	(-0.52)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5.25%	(5.25%)
Long Bond	107.75	(107.75)
Yield	6.29%	(6.34%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	6.75%	(6.75%)
12-month bill	107.75	(107.75)
STERLING		
New York	1.5361	(1.5360)
London	1.5359	(1.5359)
DM	2.204	(2.2047)
FF	7.8040	(7.8735)
Sfr	1.7780	(1.7887)
Yen	157.80	(158.66)
£ Index	83.3	(83.8)
DOLLAR		
London	1.4178	(1.4175)
DM	4.8888	(4.8885)
FF	1.1428	(1.1385)
Sfr	101.85	(100.80)
Yen	83.2	(82.7)
Tokyo close Yen 101.27		
BREXIT 15-day (Jan)		
	\$16.40	(\$16.35)
SOIL		
London close	\$380.00	(\$380.55)
* denotes midday trading price		

Watchdog spells out vision for Internet

By GEORGE SWELL

DON CRUIKSHANK, the regulator of the telecommunications industry, yesterday followed up his criticisms of the Labour Party's plans to allow BT to join up schools to the Internet by making suggestions of his own at a conference on education.

Tony Blair announced at the recent Labour conference that the party would allow BT to offer broadband services down its wires in return for a pledge to join up schools to the information superhighway. But the move met with criticism from the Director-General of Telecommunications who yesterday spelled out a plan to share the costs of access for the schools across all the public network operators. He proposed a universal service fund financed by the network operators, which would reimburse providers of superhighway services in proportion to their expenses.

Mr Cruikshank told a conference in Cambridge on education superhighways: "There has been a lot of talk lately about free connections to the information highway for schools. But I suspect schools may need rather more than that. Eventually, I would expect students to need a package containing something like affordable connections; low, predictable usage tariffs; some internal networking and end-user kit."

Mr Cruikshank last month described Labour Party proposals to develop an information superhighway with British Telecom alone as monopolistic.

Blair applause, page 26

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Redwood attacks single currency 'sheep' mentality

By Ross Tieman
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN REDWOOD yesterday challenged the growing enthusiasm for European economic integration of the Confederation of British Industry, warning businessmen not to be "sheep exported live into Europe against your will".

At a luncheon fringe meeting, the driest standard-bearer of the Conservative right claimed a single currency would undermine Britain's ability to manage its economy, and condemn the country to high unemployment.

Urging business to take a global view, he called for a north Atlantic free trade area, and said if firms simply wanted to minimise foreign exchange costs "perhaps Britain should abolish the pound and join the dollar".

His intervention, on a platform provided by a group of long-standing CBI critics, the British Management Data Foundation, ran strongly counter to the chorus of pro-European voices heard on the CBI conference platform in Birmingham.

Earlier, Sir Leon Brittan, the vice-chairman of the European Commission, told the conference that business should assume that France and Germany will establish a single currency before the turn of the century and should plan for it. Moving to the creation of a single currency, Sir Leon said Britain had nothing to gain from being outside it.

And he called on business leaders to look beyond the "shrill exchanges that dominate the media and all too often prevail in the political arena," and make heard the voice of businessmen, "uniquely placed to see the long-term interests of the country".

In a business forum where some are already beginning to campaign for Britain to participate in a single currency, Sir Leon stressed the "potential benefits" of a single currency. The cost of doing business in Europe would fall, the risks of exporting and investing would reduce, and all the benefits of a stable, low-inflation currency would accrue, he said. His

CBI

ANNUAL
CONFERENCE,
BIRMINGHAM

words echoed some of those expressed earlier by company chiefs speaking in the debate over Europe. Chris Haskins, the chairman of Northern Foods and a member of the CBI's economics committee, said the only benefit from opting out would be "the opportunity to devolve".

But if Britain took part in a European currency, he said, its companies would enjoy all the benefits of enlarged market opportunities and a stable currency. Philip Goldenberg, a partner in SJ Berwin, the solicitor, said Britain would have a choice between "inside influence or outside domination." He told the conference: "We would be marginalised totally if we were outside the single currency when it takes place."

As yesterday's debate made

abundantly clear, CBI activists are now in accord on the need for Britain to participate in Europe. Their differences centre upon whether the pace of progress should be slowed to allow the working of the single market to improve before progress to the next hurdle.

Dick Evans, chief executive of British Aerospace, pleaded for politicians to engineer a phased shift to a common, open market in defence equipment. Otherwise, he said, the Europeans would be unable to match the economies of scale and efficiencies being won by American rivals through restructuring.

Ian McAllister chairman of Ford in Britain, highlighted enormous benefits to both consumer and manufacturer from the large production runs made possible by common standards and product legislation.

While some businessmen expressed concerns about state aid, subsidies and impediments to free trade, Sir Leon was at pains to emphasise a new mood at the Commission to tackle fraud and bureaucratic attitudes within member states.

He said: "The new Scandinavian commissioners are sweeping out many of the cobwebs that have existed for too long in the management of the European Union."

Pennington, page 27



Still challenging: John Redwood at yesterday's meeting

Blair wins applause as past rejected

TONY BLAIR yesterday set out for business leaders Labour's plans for a "modern industrial policy" as the Labour leader charted a new relationship between his party and business.

In his keynote address to the conference, Mr Blair drew a warm response from business leaders as he largely rejected Labour's past policies towards business.

Proclaiming new opportunities in both business and politics, Mr Blair said the new relationship between Labour and business should not be based on "tolerance" — though indeed that is better than hostility — but on a genuine trust and understanding that it is time for a new approach to our economic problems and that today's Labour Party, new Labour, is capable of delivering it.

He accepted that business asked serious questions of Labour — whether it had changed, and whether there were "hordes of extreme left-wingers waiting to overrun the centrist Mr Blair."

Labour had changed radically, he said, and there was now a "new era" opening up between Labour and business, in which there was much common ground — though he acknowledged that contentious areas remained, including Labour's plans to introduce a national minimum wage and the European social chapter.

A Labour government should provide a secure low-inflation environment, he said, and promote long-term investment. It should ensure business had a well-educated workforce to recruit, and first-class infrastructure.

Mr Blair said he wanted a tax regime where people could become wealthy through hard work and success.

On the controversial information superhighway deal announced in his speech to Labour's annual conference last month, he said: "Our aim is a competitive market. BT won't get monopoly status."

Labour was already talking to cable companies and other providers to ensure competition was free and fair.

Reports by Philip Bassett and Ross Tieman

WHAT BUSINESS SAID ABOUT BLAIR

◀ A marvellous speech. I was impressed with what he is thinking — particularly his long-termism and his attitudes to education?

David Lovatt
Acme Marls, a building products company

◀ One still wonders really what is meant by some of the small print of the social legislation and the minimum wage — though again he did take this head-on. He didn't duck the issue?

John Baker
National Power chairman

◀ I think what we would see if we got a Labour government is the same sort of policies pursued under a different management?

Roger Bootle
chief economist at HSBC

◀ A lot of the issues that Tony Blair raised in his speech today have been the policy of the Labour party for some time. Education, infrastructure, investment — something we would all agree with?

Ian McAllister
chairman of Ford

◀ Very impressive — but can he deliver?

Bridget Rosewell
Business Strategies

◀ Very impressive. You can't say he was in a hostile audience — that was pretty obvious from the enormous applause?

Dennis Storer
British-American Chamber of Commerce

◀ It's reassuring if they are telling us now that they were wrong in every previous election when they so viciously and bitterly attacked business interests. But it takes a long time to persuade us that they have actually changed their tune?

Ian Lang
President of the Board of Trade

◀ There remain some doubts about whether he can actually deliver, but we will only know that when he is actually in office?

Bill Good
Sterling Tubes

◀ The only doubt in my mind is whether he will carry his party with him. I believe he can?

Niall Fitzgerald
Unilever vice-chairman

Heseltine calls for 'benchmarking'



Heseltine: "relentless"

MICHAEL HESELTINE, the Deputy Prime Minister, said the drive to increase Britain's economic competitiveness would be "relentless" and announced a new government initiative with business — a national benchmarking scheme — to improve the performance of companies.

Largely steering clear of any political argument over Labour's new appeal to business and concentrating instead on the issue of Britain's global competitiveness, Mr Heseltine said the Government's series of Competitive-

ness White Papers forced both industry and the Government to scrutinise and improve their performance.

Achieving improved competitiveness was a "task of massive dimension", he told the CBI conference, and required a major effort by business: "You have to be honest enough to recognise your weaknesses. You have to sort them out."

But improving competitiveness was a "relentless" agenda, he said, and he announced a new initiative with the CBI — a national benchmarking

scheme which will help Britain's companies achieve world-class performance.

Benchmarking was vital, he said: "There is no better way of focusing on the deficiencies of your performance than by comparing your company with others. It is the crucial first step on the road to improvement."

Business leaders backed the drive for greater competitiveness. Sir David Simon, chairman of BP, said benchmarks helped to identify strengths and weaknesses, and what companies needed to do to improve themselves.

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Lloyd's will make only small profit, says Alm

By Jon Ashworth

LLOYD'S names can expect only a modest profit in the 1996 underwriting year and could be better off staying out of the market altogether, according to the latest review by the Association of Lloyd's Members (Alm). Underwriting conditions have deteriorated steadily since 1993, and show no signs of improving.

The gloomy picture unfolds in the Alm's 1995 Market Review. Robert Miller, Alm publications editor, said: "A review of underwriting prospects for 1996 by members' agents suggests the likely result will be a modest profit. A difficult year is in prospect, and names will need to act defensively if they are to avoid the over-exposure of their capital."

Lloyd's is likely to make a profit of £900 million for the 1993 account and £1.1 billion for 1994, according to Financial Intelligence and Research (Fir), an independent analyst. In terms of returns on gross capacity, Lloyd's should make 12.2 per cent in 1993 and 10.2 per cent in 1994, making them two of its best years ever.

Fir predicts returns could dwindle to as little as 5 per cent in 1996. Mr Miller said: "A big catastrophe would knock the profit off completely. What's in it for the names?"

Over-capacity in the market has prompted a decline in rates across all sectors, with the exception of aviation. Mr Miller said action by names to withdraw capital could re-

move the excess and ironically lead to an improvement in rates. Lloyd's expects to make a profit of just over £1 million in the 1993 underwriting year. Official forecasts for 1994 will not be available until May.

Lloyd's separately announced the appointment of Michael Crall as chief executive designate of Equitas, the new company intended to re-insure the market's 1992 and prior-year liabilities. Mr Crall is president and chief executive officer of Argonaut Insurance, of California. Jane Barker, former chief operating officer and chief financial officer at the London Stock Exchange, is financial director designate of Equitas. Both are due to start on December 1.

Wells Fargo raises bid in bank battle

By Richard Thomson
in New York

WELLS FARGO has raised the stakes in America's biggest hostile bank bid battle by lifting its offer for First Interstate Bancorp to \$10.9 billion.

The new offer, which is nearly \$900 million higher than Wells's original bid last month, is designed to block an agreed \$10.3 billion takeover of First Interstate by First Bank System for \$10.3 billion.

In a letter to William Stant, head of First Interstate, Paul Hazen, Wells's chairman, said: "As you know, the economic benefit to our respective stockholders that can be generated from the combination of our two companies is enormous, and far outstrips the benefits of a First Interstate-First Bank System combination." The takeover would create one of the top ten banks in the US.

Wells Fargo's move was welcomed on Wall Street where it is seen as offering better value for shareholders. Wells says its deal offers about \$800 million in potential cost savings. It is now offering 0.67 of its own shares in return for each First Interstate share, pricing the target bank at nearly three times book value.

Pet City on target for AIM



Giles Clarke with a Moluccan white cockatoo at the Pet City superstore in Basingstoke

PET CITY, the pet superstore chain, is hoping to prove itself more bull than bear when it comes to the Alternative Investment Market next month. (Alasdair Murray writes).

The company aims to raise £10 million from the float, giving the company a market capitalisation of £50 million.

Giles Clarke, chief executive, said Pet City was joining AIM to help to fuel its expansion plans. "We are looking to establish 300 shops in the next ten years. A quotation will also raise our profile."

The company was founded in 1989 by Mr Clarke, who helped to set up the Majestic

Wine Warehouses, and Richard Northcott, who established Dodge City, the forerunner of B&Q, the do-it-yourself chain. The two founders hold about 40 per cent of the shares. They said none of the existing shareholders intended to use the float to sell their holdings.

Bank	Buyer	Offer
Australia	2.23	2.07
Austria	18.59	15.00
Belgium	2.23	2.07
Canada	2.23	2.07
Cyprus	0.748	0.680
Denmark	5.20	4.40
Finland	7.22	6.57
France	8.08	7.41
Germany	2.37	2.07
Greece	32.41	32.41
Hong Kong	12.77	11.77
Ireland	1.03	1.03
Israel	1.03	1.03
Italy	2.02	2.02
Japan	121.05	105.05
Malta	0.81	0.81
Netherlands	2.84	2.40
New Zealand	2.23	2.07
Norway	10.27	9.27
Portugal	244.00	225.00
Spain	108.00	108.00
Sweden	11.07	10.27
Switzerland	1.82	1.74
Turkey	1.82	1.74
USA	1.82	1.82

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Current rates apply to banknotes. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

□ Blair against Heseltine at the CBI □ Camelot plans to sell Instant cards in pubs □ Flaws in any plan for a utilities rebate

Jousting for the hand of Britain plc

□ Michael Heseltine now faces a competitiveness challenge of his own — from Tony Blair. The Deputy Prime Minister was in Birmingham yesterday to sell a benchmarking initiative which will help companies measure their performance against their rivals.

But Britain's business leaders are already engaged in a rather different benchmarking exercise: measuring up Labour against the Conservatives.

Mr Blair started the day with an audience at the Confederation of British Industry conference that was already fired up by its own leadership with enthusiasm for Europe.

Mr Heseltine trailed in at the end of a long day during which it was claimed that despite all the painful reforms of the past 16 years, the economy is still underperforming. Two of Britain's most respected economists, Roger Bootle and Professor Patrick Minford, said the Tories have pursued the right strategy but implemented it badly.

Worse still, the policy mistakes of the 1980s — a housing market boom, failure to rein in public spending, and over-reliance on exchange rate policy to control inflation — have been repeated

by a new, and equally grave error. While business is worrying about declining demand and slowing growth, the Conservatives are still fighting yesterday's battle against inflation.

Britain's bosses now appear willing to believe Labour under Blair could make just as good a fist of the day-to-day management of the economy as the Conservatives. At the very least, it could hardly do worse.

The battle is far from over. But the very fact that most business leaders at the CBI privately thought Mr Blair won yesterday's conference joust shows that it will be a very hard-fought one until the lists are closed at the general election.

Immoral draw of the Lottery

□ CAMELOT has the vested interest of the pornographer in pushing the boundaries of what is acceptable to the limit, and then seeing if they can be pushed

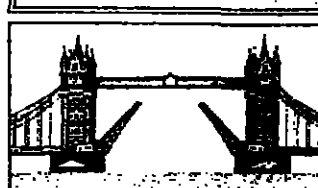
a little further. But the plan to sell scratch-cards in pubs is an example of the Lottery going one taboo too far.

There have long been prohibitions laid down in law about mixing alcohol with gambling, and one does not need to be a Bible-thumping Methodist minister to understand why. People do silly things in pubs as closing time draws near, which is why instant penury has not yet been on sale behind the bar.

There are two views on the regulation of human vices, if such they be, like gambling, drink and cigarettes. A strict libertarian view would allow everything to be sold to all. Most societies have instead opted for a series of *ad hoc* limits that are regularly redrawn.

You cannot serve a drink in a betting shop, and gaming machines in pubs and other licensed premises have a restriction on the prizes to be won. The Lottery, as a quasi-charitable operation, was set up outside any such system of limits, a dispensation

PENNINGTON



galling to others in a gaming industry still bound by them. Yet, even a year ago, the sale of scratch-cards in pubs would have been unthinkable.

Camelot claims the odds of winning on one of its scratch-cards are about one in five. Not true, if your definition of winning is getting more than your stake money back, and this analysis of the "odds" would not be acceptable in the betting shop. More dubiously, Camelot says players are spread evenly across the social spectrum, a claim disputed by its own statistics so far. In the online draw, there is a small but measurable bias to-

wards those social categories least able to afford it. Both common sense and anecdotal evidence suggest this will be more pronounced when the evidence comes in for scratch-cards.

The pleadings of the gambling industry may be prompted by self-interest, but this does not mean they are unreasonable. Scratch-cards, like bookies, should be kept out of the pub; meanwhile, measures to treat the whole British gaming industry equally should be accelerated.

Doomed not to feel good

□ IF THE plan, subsequently denied, to knock £200 off each household's bills for essential services was intended to provide the missing "feel-good" factor, then it was not only doomed to fail in this aim, it was one of the crudest pieces of electoral bribery seen in decades. Why not go the whole hog and triple the cash, but limit it to those living in

marginal constituencies? If, however, it was a serious attempt to devise a proper and fair tax aimed at ensuring the cash piling up at privatised utilities goes back to the people who deserve it, then it fails along with previous attempts, because it is neither proper, nor fair.

An injection of approaching £4 billion onto the nation's high streets would be an economic miracle indeed, and the indirect nature of this injection, a sum of £200 taken off household expenses and available for other purposes, might stimulate higher spending. But any number of studies have shown that the first thing much of today's over-borrowed electorate will do with any such cash injection is to pay off debt.

The problem with a utilities tax, aside from the broken promises to investors brought in on privatisation, is the difficulty of setting a suitable level for a wide range of different companies. They range from near-bankrupt British Gas, facing a £1 billion

potential loss from the "gas bubble," through to risk-adverse electricity companies who can afford to drop £500 million to keep their independence.

Each one has paid-up management teams primed to explain in tedious detail why it is different from the rest. Entering into individual negotiations, as any regulator approaching a new price review will tell you, can be a wearying and time consuming business, with no certainty of getting the various comparisons right at the end.

Politically, a utilities tax is an idea whose time has come. Investors can only hope that whichever party has to set it, is not too heavily swayed by short-term electoral considerations.

Debt mates

□ AN AMERICAN diplomat, surveying the former Soviet Union in its decline, once memorably and cruelly described the country as "Upper Volta with rockets". Now America Inc has been put on credit-watch, with a warning that it might renege on its huge federal borrowings, what equivalent epithet might be applied to the world's biggest economy? Zaire with added Third World debt?

Adidas up on grey market

Adidas, the German sports shoe and clothing maker returned to profit by Robert Louis-Dreyfus, yesterday priced its shares at DM68, valuing the company at DM3.2 billion.

On the grey market in Frankfurt, the shares jumped to DM77 in response to strong demand for the initial public offering. Official dealing begins on Friday and 60.2 per cent of Adidas is being offered by Sogedim, a company representing Mr Louis-Dreyfus and his associates, and Seba, an investment company.

BBA nets £19m

BBA, the engineering group, has raised £19 million from the sale of Highams in the UK, Southern Industrial Products, RM Engineered Products and Fairprene Industrial Products in the US. Their total turnover last year was £53 million.

Channel Tunnel slows traffic growth at BAA

By CARL MORTISHED

COMPETITION from Channel Tunnel passenger rail services and a fall-off in holiday charters are slowing traffic growth at BAA, the airports group.

Eurostar is eating into BAA's European scheduled services, the group's largest market. Scheduled traffic to the Continent grew only 3.5 per cent compared with an overall growth in traffic of 5.8 per cent for the six months to September 30.

Shares in BAA initially fell 7p yesterday as the company confirmed that growth in passenger traffic was decelerating from 11.6 per cent in April to 3.4 per cent in September. However, BAA forecast that

growth for the full year would still be in the 5-6 per cent range and yesterday announced an 11 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £249 million for the half-year to September 30. The interim dividend is up 10 per cent to 4.125p, due on January 23.

The profits increase includes a £9 million contribution from property sales and cost control. Total revenues were up 5.8 per cent while overheads increased at the lower rate of 4.2 per cent. Revenues would have been up 6 per cent but BAA is changing the pricing of its landing charges to smooth out the difference between peak and off-peak traffic. The effect has

shifted £7 million of revenue into the second half.

Eurostar is hitting the airlines hard on its Paris route with a loss of 125,000 passengers per month representing 1.5 per cent of BAA's total passenger traffic. "The loss is so far at the lower end of our original predictions of a 2-3 per cent loss after two years," said Russell Walls, finance director. "But for the tunnel, the rise over last year in total passenger numbers would have been over 7 per cent."

Delays from the Heathrow Express tunnel collapse mean it no longer expects to recover all the extra cost of building the rail link from the insurers. Sir John Egan, chief execu-

tive, said that BAA's international ambitions were long-term and he remained confident that BAA would secure a position in Australia in spite of the delay in the privatisation process. However, "anybody investing in BAA does so because of our core UK business," he said.

He added that BAA was winning its argument for the construction of a fifth terminal at Heathrow but the two-year inquiry will delay the opening of the first phase until 2003. He welcomed news that the Labour Party would not make the terminal an issue at the general election.

Tempos, page 28

PowerGen has 70% of Midlands

POWERGEN, the UK's second-largest electricity generator, now controls more than 70 per cent of Midlands Electricity (writes Christine Buckley).

The generator, which has offered £1.95 billion for Midlands in an agreed bid, has bought about 21 per cent of the electricity distributor's equity in the market.

Doubt over whether the Office of Fair Trading will sanction the bid has pushed the shares lower to 984p compared with the offer price of £10.

Yesterday PowerGen extended the offer, which closed on Friday, by another two weeks until November 24.

Power competition, page 29
Australian power, page 29

Country Casuals pleads for loyalty

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

COUNTRY CASUALS, the clothing retailer that is fighting a hostile bid from John Shannon, its former chief executive, said yesterday that sales in the third quarter of the year for the core brand had edged up just 1 per cent on the comparable period last year.

However, the company added that trading was improving. In the first two trading weeks of November, like-for-like sales of the Country Casuals label had risen 10 per cent.

The board, which has rejected an offer of £27 million from Mr Shannon for the business, declared the sales to be creditable and continued to implore shareholders to remain loyal to

the company. Yesterday, it reinforced that appeal by writing to all shareholders.

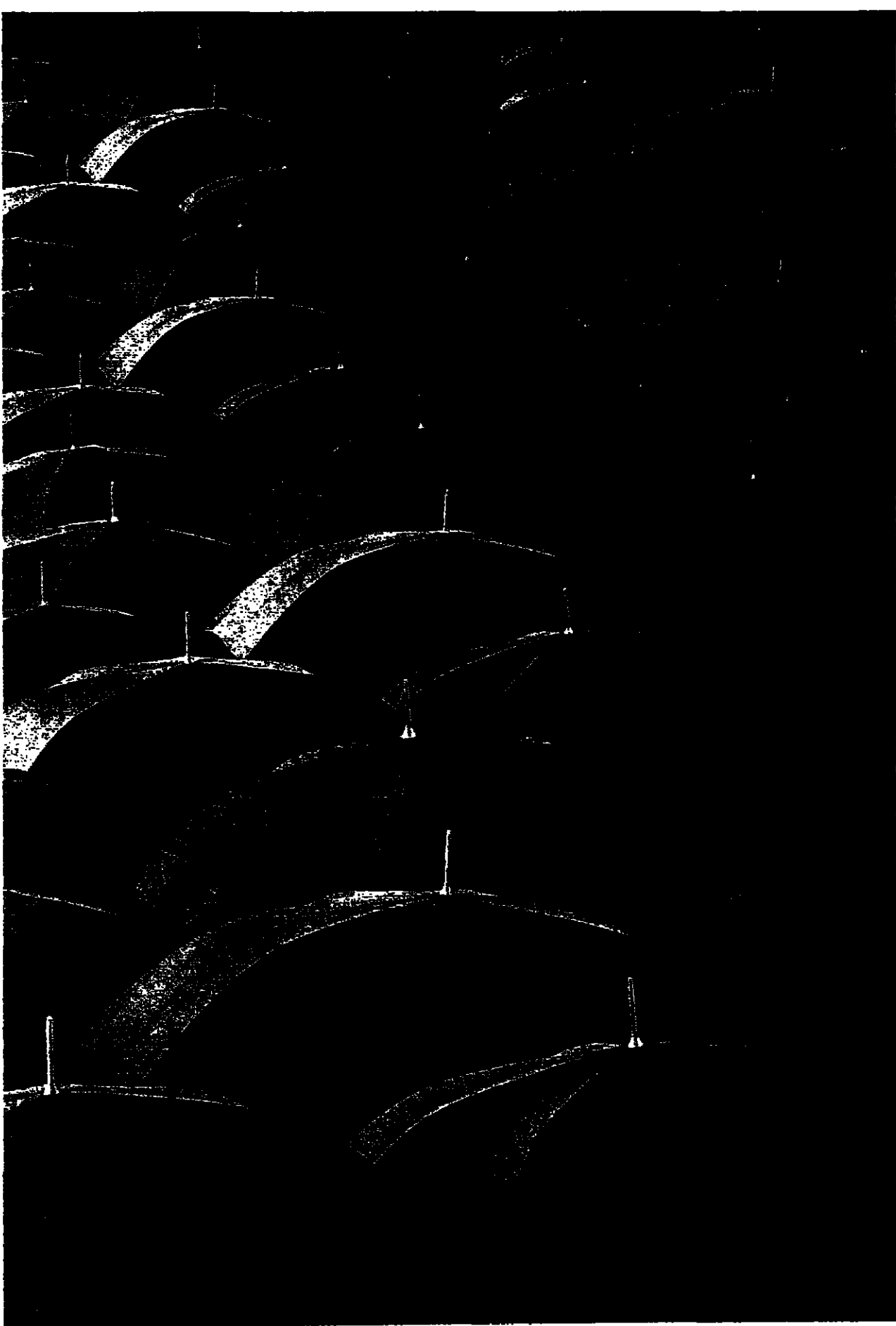
Elvi, the company's chain of stores that caters for larger sizes, improved like-for-like sales 14 per cent.

The chain has been a particular target for criticism from Mr Shannon.

Mr Shannon's offer for 140p a share runs until Thursday. On the first closing date of the offer — November 3 — the bidder had received acceptances representing 34 per cent of the share capital.

Mr Shannon left Country Casuals last year in a dispute over the length of his contract. He has a personal stake of 18.8 per cent.

The share price was unmoved yesterday at 140p.



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Construction sector shares build up gains

HOPES that the Chancellor may move to provide some much needed pre-Christmas cheer for the beleaguered housing market in his Budget gave a welcome boost to building materials and construction-related stocks.

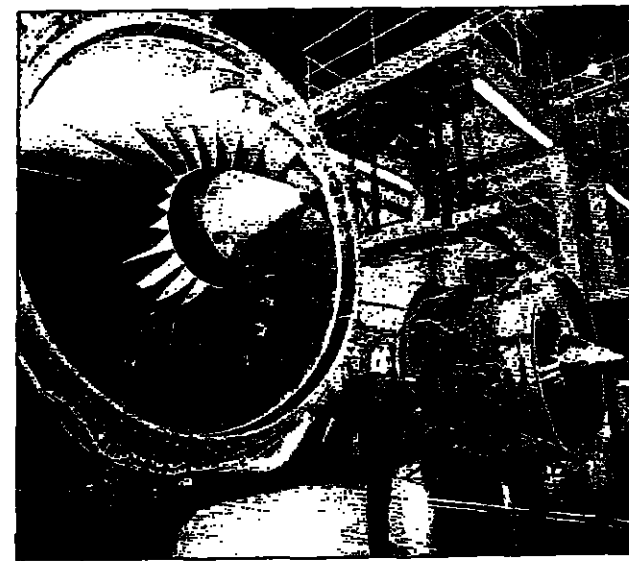
There were widespread gains for the shares, which were also boosted by reports of recommendations for the sector from NatWest Securities and Société Générale Strauss Turnbull. Among the winners, Amec advanced 8p to 66p, Barratt Developments 10p to 218p, Bellway 17p to 261p, Berkeley Group 13p to 437p, Crest Nicholson 14p to 64p, J Laing 6p to 236p, Persimmon 8p to 188p, Proving 13p to 111p, Tarmac 5p to 86p, Wilson Connolly 9p to 155p, and George Wimpey 7p to 110p.

Trading conditions elsewhere on the equity market were relatively thin before a raft of key economic statistics due later this week, however, a rally by the US Treasury market provided a late boost for shares in London in spite of continued concerns about the US budget crisis.

American markets were able to breathe a sigh of relief after the US Treasury announced a schedule of securities auctions that would raise sufficient funds to pay interest and principal on outstanding debt due this week.

The London market shook off a negative start to trading on Wall Street, underpinned by an unexpected decline in UK input price inflation, suggesting that inflationary pressure is softening. The FT-SE 100 index ended at its best of the day, closing up 13.4 to 3,536.8 in spite of a number of leading stocks going ex-dividend. Second-liners did not fare so well, with the FT-SE 250 down 5.0 to 3,897.3. Volume reached 685 million shares, swollen by 156 million shares in Investors Capital Trust, up 1/2p at 109p, after the British Assets stake was placed.

Among companies reporting, there was relief as British Steel hardened 2p to 159p after reporting first-half pre-tax profits of £550 million (£159 million) and an improved interim dividend of 3p (2p). The company said that it recognised an easing of demand and admitted that stocks would fall over the coming months, but there was little hint that it is about to follow its European rivals by cutting production. British Steel said underlying con-



A £100m engine order gave a boost to Rolls-Royce shares

sumption of steel remained satisfactory in most markets. Among banks, a stock shortage saw Abbey National add 15p to 568p and Bank of Scotland 12p to 261p, while National Westminster rose 10p to 653p in response to speculation that a £2 billion-plus sale of NatWest Bancorp is imminent. Fleet Financial, the acquisitive New England

after restructuring charges, with management changes. Rolls-Royce climbed 3p to 162p on news that it had landed a £100 million engine contract with a Middle East airline. The group's Trent 772 has been chosen to power Bahrain-based Gulf Air's fleet of Airbus A330 jetliners.

Sandy Morris, of NatWest Securities, has upgraded his

point, while military engine deliveries should recover sharply during 1996. Hopes of possible Budget cheer for consumer-related shares helped Next, additionally boosted by a Credit Lyonnais Laing buy recommendation, to rise 11p to 418p, while Marks and Spencer firmed 8 1/2p to 428p and MFI Furniture 5 1/2p to 151 1/2p, on heavy volume of 10.3 million shares.

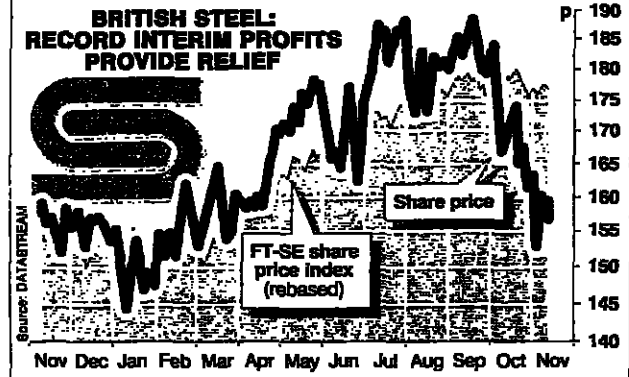
Among food retailers suffering from indigestion as a result of the continuing food price war, Tesco rose 5 1/2p to 285 1/2p and Argyle, the Safeway supermarket chain, 5p to 304p, in spite of profit overstatements from James Capel. Capel has trimmed its current year profit forecast for Argyle by £15 million to £400 million, while its estimate for Tesco is reduced by £25 million to £660 million. Elsewhere in the sector, Asda firmed 1 1/2p to 97 1/2p, on heavy volume of 11.1 million shares.

North West Water dipped 2p to 57 1/2p after news emerged that the OFT was looking into alleged supply failures. Severn Trent fell 6p to 644p and Yorkshire tumbled 17p to 606p for the same reason. Northumbrian Water, however, perked up 7p to £11.15 awaiting today's bid talks between the company and Lyonnais des Eaux, of France.

A firmer oil price, driven higher in part by the Saudi Arabian bomb blast, helped BP to add 9 1/2p to 480p, while Shell gained 2p to 739p in spite of Nigerian uncertainty.

Unigate added 14p to 416p on the announcement tomorrow of first-half profit figures. GILTED-EDGED: Government stocks started on a weaker note, but prices drifted back up towards mid-session before a rally by the US bond market provided glimmers with a late spurt.

The December series of the long gilt future ended seven ticks higher at £107 1/2, on volume of 28,000 contracts traded. Among conventional stocks, shorts climbed by about 1 1/2p, while medium-sized issues firmed by about 1 1/2p, and longs saw the best advances, with gains stretching to 1 1/2p. Index-linked shares ended a couple of ticks firmer. NEW YORK: Wall Street shares pared their losses in early trading as bonds rallied. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 2.53 points to 4,867.84.



Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 4,867.84 (-2.53)
S&P Composite 991.80 (-0.92)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 17,789.46 (-54.10)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9,385.22 (-26.63)

Amsterdam:
BOE Index 457.41 (-2.66)

Sydney:
ASX 2,122.90 (-3.30)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2,175.28 (+3.11)

Singapore:
SSE 2,063.80 (-7.84)

Brussels:
General 7,794.30 (+13.17)

Paris:
CAC-40 1,838.24 (+1.58)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 695.50 (-1.00)

London:
FT 30 2,588.3 (+12.0)

FT 100 3,536.8 (+13.4)

FT-SE Mid 250 3,897.3 (-5.0)

FT-SE 100 3,536.8 (+13.4)

FT-SE Eurotrack 100 1,411.35 (+1.18)

FT All-Share 1,736.92 (+4.53)

FT Non Financials 1,639.43 (+3.37)

FT Financials 1,112.88 (+3.04)

FT Govt Secs 940.77 (+0.13)

Bangladesh 2,997.2

SEAC Volume 665.3m

SEAC (Contract) 1,863.3m (+0.10)

US\$ 1.5588 (-0.0170)

German Mark 2.2131 (+0.0115)

Exchange Index 833.4 (-0.5)

Bank of England official base rate 1.75%

ESDOR 19.64 Sep 0.9% Jan 1997-100

RPI 19.64 Sep 0.9% Jan 1997-100

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TEMPUS

Stainless steel

AFTER chemicals, here comes steel with gentle warnings about overstocking by its customers and a forecast of weaker demand in the second half of the year. The comments from British Steel bear an uncanny resemblance to those made by the oil industry over the past fortnight and have left the City divided between those who see the dip in demand as the beginning of the cyclical downturn and the optimistic view that it is only a temporary correction.

British Steel takes the latter view and sees no need to batten down the hatches but the company's cash flow has been hurt by the build up of working capital and profits will be depressed in the second half as £142 million of unsold stock is shifted from the company's books. The stock build-up is a worry because everyone has been caught out by the slow-

down in production by European car manufacturers, suggesting that growth expectations have been unsustainable. Several European steelmakers are talking of capacity reductions but British Steel will be wise not to assume any help from that quarter. Margins will be squeezed as mills try to shift surplus product and there is a real risk that car makers will use the opportunity to push-down prices as they enter into new long-term contracts for steel.

Prices in Europe are currently higher than in the US, a factor which will make it more difficult for European mills to unload their surplus while China, a useful safety valve in the past, is not currently a big importer. British Steel will have to box clever to minimise the impact of destocking and investors will need the cyclical warning.

BAA

THE total amount of capital invested so far in the rail link between London and Paris must be in excess of £1 billion. That compares with £4 billion of capital employed by BAA over all its UK airports. It is therefore scarcely surprising that those BAA clients who operate European routes are feeling the pinch.

BAA is sanguine about the effect of Eurostar and with some justification. Time zones are helpful to BAA, with most of the rail traffic originating from France, because the one-hour differential works against British businessmen arriving early for meetings in Paris. However, BAA is resigned to losing up to 3 per cent of its traffic to the Tunnel.

More worrying than a predictable loss of business is the unpredictable. After a huge

Caradon

CARADON's board upheaval bears the hallmarks of a football team manager conducting an end-of-season clear-out. By eliminating a few old stagers and buying in a new star striker, he reckons he will keep the fans off his back and give himself time to pull the team up the league table.

However, it is a strange tactic indeed to put the consistent midfielder up for sale, while holding on to the out-of-form striker and failing to deliver on the big-money signing.

But this is exactly the course of action taken by chief executive Peter Jansen at the troubled building materials company. It announced a management re-organisation yesterday, bringing US and European operations back to London, sacking European director Nick Cohen, while US director Tim Walker keeps his job, despite presiding over an operation

where profits fell by a third at the halfway stage.

At the same time, Jansen has put on ice the key appointment of a new chief operating officer. The changes have confused the fans. The City marked the shares up cautiously yesterday, pleased Jansen had at last begun to make changes, but concerned that the squad was beginning to look thin without the arrival of a tough cost-cutting director.

Until more transfer details are announced, the shares do not deserve your support.

Sidlaw

SIDLAW has had a difficult year. The company is coping with exposure to the mature North Sea oil industry while nursing an ailing carpets business and battling cost and margin pressures in its packaging division. Packaging, in particular, has suffered a double squeeze as the company has had to contend with soaring raw material costs and buyers

who are resisting price rises. Food manufacturers are themselves under the hammer as their customers, the supermarkets, battle for the consumer's dollar.

In packaging, Sidlaw has seen its margin head south from 7 per cent last year to just 2 1/2 per cent this year. The company forecasts that continued resistance from customers to price increases will neutralise the benefits from a recent fall-off in raw material costs. It expects the margin to stick at its modest level this year.

However, elsewhere Sidlaw is applying some surgery. It is broadening its oil services and earlier this year opened a base in Norway. Its textile business has now been swept under the carpet, albeit at a loss of £5.2 million.

The combined effect of the changes, along with the turn in the packaging cycle, could mean that Sidlaw has reached its nadir.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

NOT THE EUROSTAR

FT-SE share price index (rebased)

BAA share price

Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Dec 92-93 Mar 100-103

Mar 100-103 Mar 100-103

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THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Opening for lunch date

WITH the (mis)luck of the Irish, the Ireland Fund of Great Britain has done it again. This year's annual luncheon at The Banquet House, Whitehall Place, sponsored by the Bank of Ireland, and at which IJ Heinz boss Tony O'Reilly and former Irish PM Albert Reynolds are speakers, again clashes with the State Opening of Parliament — tomorrow.

It's only the third annual luncheon, but for the second year running the event clashes with Parliament, and will create a host of travel and security hassles for guests. But as George Magan, of chic merchant bank JO Hambro Magan and the chairman of the Fund's luncheon committee concedes: "Parliament got there first."

Record profits

RUSSELL WALLS is setting into his new job as finance director at BAA and is proving to be a helpful counterpoint to Sir John Egan, the chief executive. Responding to a question about Heathrow's half-year profits, Sir John said: "We only create them for the full year." After a brief silence, Walls added helpfully: "We only record them for the full year."

Charity case

NO SOONER does *The Times* 1000 hit the streets than 1,000 City folk are sent letters. Schroder Ventures is writing to chief executives, managing directors, finance chiefs and directors listed in *The Times* 1000 asking "What would you really like for Christmas?" For every answer received, £5 goes to the charity Children in Need. For the most amusing and original answer, a case of Bollinger is promised.



"The good news is we are unlikely to be taken over"

Keeping clean

AS THE world protests in the wake of the Nigerian elections, and posters urge "Go well, Go to Hell, Boycott Shell," one UK company is keeping its head down. Paterson Zochonis, the soaps and household products group whose products include Imperial Leather and Elephant Power detergent, employs 5,000 in Nigeria, but says: "We keep out of politics."

Young blood

CBI leaders managed neatly the public transition at the opening of the confederation's conference of the director-generalship from Howard Davies to Adair Turner — or as CBI President Sir Bryan Nicholson put it: "trading in my director-general for a younger model, with all his own hair". And noting ruefully that, in spite of Davies' famous baldness, "it's not only policemen who are getting younger" — at 39, Turner is junior even to Davies who took the job at the age of 41.

Trading places

NO SOONER does SNC/Merrill Lynch assure the world that there are no more resignations, than the swing-door swings again. Morris Freedman, head of European sales and eight years at SNC, is joining the soft commission broker, TIR Securities, as head of UK and European trading.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Energy free-for-all to follow electricity sector shake-out

Christine Buckley examines changes to come on top of the transformation since privatisation

Amid the bid frenzy that is engulfing the electricity industry, it is hard to believe that five years ago doubts hung over its flotation. This week, Welsh Water is expected to launch an offer for South Wales Electricity, which the City expects will trigger a bidding war. Swalec is likely to attract a suitor with deeper pockets ready to pay a higher price than the £1.04 billion that Welsh Water has indicated.

The water utility's declaration of interest last week was forced by the Stock Exchange after Swalec's share price started moving. It followed an agreed bid for Seaboard by Central and South West Corporation, the Tean utility. Only three regional electricity companies (Recs) have now not received bid approaches.

Five years ago, concerns in the City that investors might not come forward in sufficient numbers and that the gigantic sell-off could founder prompted the Government to set a modest flotation price. However, since 1990, soaring share prices, a comparatively benevolent regulatory regime and directors whose income has jumped from civil service rates to "fat-catdom" have dimmed the memory of doubt.

The valuation placed on the Rees pales in comparison with the huge sums now being offered for them. The flotation price for all the companies in 1990 was 240p a share. Last week's offer for CSW for Seaboard came in at £12.70p a share, after adjusting for a share split by the Rec for the South East. Shareholders in that company have seen their investment grow 520 per cent.

The sale of the electricity industry has clearly been one of the bargains of the century. Of course, it is not just market sentiment that has sent the share prices into a more rarified atmosphere. Large cost savings have been stripped out, payrolls sliced and the former divisions of the Central Electricity Generating Board have become leaner as they have developed into commercial animals.

Of the 12 English and Welsh Rees, the three which have yet to receive takeover approaches are Yorkshire, East Midlands and London. Properly speaking, Swalec should be counted with them, although its days of independence appear to be numbered.

The others, barring Northern Electric which ironically was the bid target that triggered the frenzy but which has since bled its cash reserves to dull its attraction for a potential suitor, have agreed bids or are now taken over as in the case of Manweb, the northwestern company. So far, no bids have been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, although the Labour Party continues to argue that the whole industry should be referred on the grounds of public interest and competition concerns.

Two approaches — those by the generators National Power and PowerGen for Southern Electric and



Independent companies were created artificially from one network. The divisions have proved unsustainable

Midlands Electricity respectively — are awaiting judgments from the Office of Fair Trading, expected soon after November 20. The signs are that the bids are likely to be waved through. Scottish Power's MMC-free acquisition of Manweb set an important precedent in terms of vertical integration, although the Scottish group argued its case on the grounds that it already functioned as a vertically integrated multi-utility.

In addition, the Department of Trade and Industry ignored the fears of the OFT over North West Water's bid for Norweb. The fact that Ian Lang, the Board of Trade President, sanctioned the creation of the first English multi-utility in spite of a volley of consumer fears must bode well for National Power and PowerGen.

Welsh Water is more likely to face an obstacle in the shape of a rival bidder for Swalec. Such a rival may well be a third US company arriving on UK shores, after the agreed bid by CSW for Seaboard and the Southern takeover of South Western Electricity. Houston Industries, which launched a joint bid with CSW for Norweb before being outbid by North West Water, is still said to be on the hunt for a UK electricity company. The company, which has

retained advisers in the UK, has been the subject of heightened speculation after CSW decided to go it alone.

US utilities have their profits regulated, so are enticed by the rich rewards to be made in the UK. Even the prospect of a Labour government does not deter them. They are encouraged by the view generally holding in the City that Labour will steer away from a draconian profits capping policy and toe a more moderate line under which the utilities could continue to prosper. But US utilities are not the only source of interest. The high cash generation capacity of electricity companies has a broad-based appeal. It is this attraction that several electricity companies have sought to dilute with special shareholder dividends and hand-outs to their customers.

Northern and Yorkshire have taken this action, mounting pre-emptive defences from takeover by pouring out substantial amounts of cash in special dividends. Pouring back cash would seem to be one of the few methods by which independent electricity companies, created artificially from one large network by the Government in the interests of competition, can defend themselves from takeovers sparked by market forces and the quest for cost savings.

But to many observers, it looks as though electricity is about to go much of the way back from whence it came with vertical integration increasingly becoming a shaper of energy provision. The divisions carved out five years ago have proved unsustainable.

Along the way, much money has been generated for investors, with the interests of shareholders and consumers becoming increasingly polarised.

But the transformation is far from over. Next month, the National Grid will be floated, with the shares to be held by existing shareholders of the Rees — which jointly own the Grid — or the successful predators. The privatisation of the nuclear power industry is scheduled for next year. All domestic customers will be allowed to choose their electricity supplier from 1998, although Rees will maintain their monopoly of delivering the supply selected. The independent power projects, many of which are linked to Rees, will assume a greater role in power supply. British Gas will also enter the electricity market as electricity companies will likewise vie for market share in a similarly opened up gas market. Then, something of an energy free-for-all will be under way.

Such a situation promises to benefit customers far more than the electricity transformation has so far done, as shareholders have gained most from the changes. And, as competition cranks up, price will become far more of a fighting ground than takeover potential.

As competition cranks up, price will become far more of a battleground

Bidding for power exceeds state's wildest expectations

Rachel Bridge examines the huge success of a privatisation in Australia

As the Australian state government of Victoria closes the bidding for its last two remaining electricity distribution companies today, even its fiercest critics are having to admit that the massive privatisation has been a resounding success.

Based heavily on the UK electricity privatisation model, with the entire industry being sold off as five separate distribution companies, five generating companies, a transmission grid and a company to manage the supply and exchange of power within the system, the amount of money raised so far by the Victorian sell-off — the first of its kind in Australia — has exceeded even the wildest of expectations.

The sale of the state's five distribution companies, the first batch to go on the block, are expected to bring in about \$8 billion to \$9 billion (£4 billion) by Christmas, more than double the initial forecast. As a result, the proceeds from the total privatisation are expected to dwarf the original \$15 billion estimate.

So far, the Victoria government has clocked up \$1.8 billion from the sale of United Energy to Utilicorp, the US group, \$950 million from the sale of Solaris Power to a consortium led by AGL, the Australian utility, and \$2 billion from the sale of Eastern



Geoffrey Wilson has been actively involved in bidding

Electricity to Texas Utilities, the US group. As one analyst put it: "The bids were so far above what analysts had predicted that everyone initially assumed that the first two bidders simply got carried away with the excitement of becoming the owner of the first two privately owned power utilities in Australia. However, the third sale has proved that is not the case."

Central to the success of the privatisation has been the huge level of interest from overseas bidders, particularly from the UK and the US. The incredible takeover frenzy currently engulfing the UK electricity industry has not only focused players' minds on what an electricity company can be worth, but has also set them scouring the world for untapped opportunities.

ing it through to shortlists, although both have had to withdraw from individual sales because of bigger distractions back home. Southern, however, is thought likely to emerge as a bidder for at least one of the two remaining distribution companies on the table. Citipower and Powercor, which are expected to go under the hammer for \$1.5 billion and \$2 billion respectively.

For the year to June 1995, Citipower, which supplies electricity to Melbourne, is expected to bring in revenues of A\$547 million, while Powercor is forecast to achieve revenues of about A\$750 million.

If Southern succeeds, it will find itself very much at home. For as well as copying the way the UK electricity industry was sold off, the state of Victoria's version will copy the way it is run, with a complete review of electricity prices to be carried out in five years by Robin Davey, the Victorian regulator-general. Legislation by the state government already requires electricity companies to achieve real price reductions to residential and small business customers of 9.1 per cent and 22 per cent respectively up to the year 2000.

For Jeff Kennett, Victoria's premier, selling the state's electricity industry has proved a remarkably painless way of reducing its A\$32 billion debt. It has also left other Australian states looking on in envy at what he has achieved. Only last month, New South Wales, Australia's biggest state, decided to radically restructure Pacific Power, its electricity industry.

Beware this letter scam from Nigeria

Robert Miller warns of tricksters who have cost investors millions

Beware a letter that contains the phrase: "And be rest assured that this transaction is 100 per cent risk free". When the missive is signed by Dr Kassim Coker and written on Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation-headed paper, then be assured that the transaction, should you fall for it, is 100 per cent guaranteed to lose you money.

It is one of many so-called "Nigerian" scams that has sucked hundreds of thousands of investors into parting with millions of dollars worldwide.

An investigating officer from the Metropolitan Police's company fraud squad says millions of these Nigerian letters have been sent to investors around the world — 51 countries at last count. There are variations on the NNPC letter, with some coming from the Federal Ministry of Works or Aviation and others from a woman claiming to be a queen working at the Central Bank of Nigeria. There is also an emperor. One particularly persistent writer is Joseph Ranzee, an engineer, who appears to work for any number of Nigerian state organisations.

One current UK case in which people have been arrested and charged involves some 300 investors from around the world, including the UK, Alaska, the US and Far East and alleged losses of millions of dollars. Charities, too, have succumbed. In Canada one lost \$25,000 and a church in South Dakota \$90,000. Britain's Christian Aid has also been targeted. Paul Tyler, the charity's financial director, said yesterday: "We received a total of three faxes which were based on a Nigerian woman dying and leaving us some money in her will. There was even a testimony from her local priest to back it up. We were asked for our bank account details which I would not give out. We asked for a banker's draft to be sent, but instead received a request to pay £7,500 in tax first. We haven't paid and have heard nothing since."

So endemic has the letter problem become that the Central Bank of Nigeria was forced to take out newspaper advertisements earlier this year warning people not to be conned. The Metropolitan Police company fraud squad said yesterday that the scams show little sign of abating.

One officer said: "It has become something of a cottage industry. When we have been over there and tracked down the different numbers you find dozens of telephone and fax lines all coming from one small office. In terms of warning signs, one of the first is when the letter talks about dollars. The Nigerian Central Bank deals in its own currency the naira, not dollars. But people are still conned. Our problem is to get people to give evidence. Naturally they are embarrassed to have fallen for what in hindsight is such an obvious try-on."

The latest letter from the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation explains how members of a tender committee appointed by the "Federal Military Government of Nigeria" have succeeded in over-inflating a government contract and having \$32 million to transfer "in full and reliable account to be disbursed among ourselves. If your company can act as the beneficiary of this fund, you or your company will retain 30 per cent of the total amount". The letter, written in September, tells how two years ago Dr Coker and his friends were defrauded by Patrice Miller living in New York who agreed to accept \$27.5 million. Dr Coker says: "With all the required documents signed, the money was duly transferred into his account only to be disappointed on our arrival in New York and we were reliably informed that Mr Miller was no longer at that address ... This time we need a more reliable and trustworthy person and a reputable company's account to transfer this money into."

As one fraud squad detective said: "Translated, these letters always have the same theme. Dear Sir or Madam, I am a thief who has stolen a lot of money from the Government and I would like your help to get it out of Nigeria. These monies do not exist and never have."

You have been warned.

Problem is to get people to give evidence. 2

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Page 18 shows you how.

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Cranswick profits lifted 11%

HIGHER pig prices and an increased market share helped Cranswick lift interim profits 11 per cent to £1.46 million. The producer of bird and animal food and pork products said higher volumes helped offset the higher cost of raw materials.

The half-time dividend was raised to 2.6p (2.45p), due on February 2, while earnings per share rose 18 per cent to 7.2p.

DCC buys

DCC, the industrial holding company, is acquiring Days Medical Aids, wheelchairs and walking aids maker, for an initial consideration of £13 million.

Shelton issue

Martin Shelton, the Leeds diaries and business gifts company, said it intends to raise £200,000 by issuing 250,000 new shares at 80p each to provide extra working capital and fund acquisitions.

Training 'fails to solve' problem of long-term jobless

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

TRAINING is failing to work as a solution to persistent unemployment, a new study says today. The report, from the Employment Policy Institute (EPI), attacks training as "an expensive way of doing very little".

The findings of the report from the independent jobs think-tank, will add to the growing scepticism about training and in particular about the effectiveness and funding of the Government's training and enterprise councils - private-sector-led bodies that now run training in Britain.

The Government will tomorrow announce what ministers hope will be the latest fall in claimant unemployment, as well as new figures on the number of people on the range of training schemes.

The Employment Policy Institute report challenges the central assumption, which it says is "held dear by all political parties", that training offers the best solution to unemployment, and argues that the rise in unemployment in the United Kingdom in the last 20 years is only "marginally" to do with a falling demand for unskilled workers.

The report, prepared for the EPI by J R Shackleton, associate head of economics at the University of Westminster, says that "skill deficiencies have not been a major factor in the creation of mass unemployment".

While qualifications help individuals to get to the front of job queues, the study says that there is little evidence to suggest that they expand the total number of jobs available, and that they may not in any

case be much use in practice, with employers probably better served by improvements in the general education of the workforce than by narrow vocational qualifications.

The study says that levy-based incentives tend to distort the market in private-sector training while retraining schemes have little impact on overall unemployment.

Drawing on an analysis of figures from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the study shows that while countries such as Sweden and Germany are relatively high spenders on publicly funded training, some of the world's most successful economies, including Japan and the United States, are low spenders. The United Kingdom is categorised as a medium spender.

UTILITY CABLE, whose core business is digging ducts for cable companies, announced record profits of £5 million for the year to end-August, up 20 per cent (Alasdair Murray writes).

Turnover increased 45 per cent to £79.5 million as the company benefited from high demand for its services.

Utility has contracts with nine of the country's ten biggest cable companies. Brendan McCann, chief executive, said: "The market is very buoyant. We have reduced costs and secured three additional contracts on the cable side and two on the general utility side."

In a board reshuffle, Sean Maguire, finance director, takes the new post of commercial director while Andrew King, financial controller, becomes finance director. The shares closed 1.5p up at 21p. The dividend was set at 0.64p (0.323p), payable February 15.



Brendan McCann, centre, with directors Alan Baskeyfield, left, and Andrew King

Record profits for Utility Cable

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Rolls-Royce in £100m engine deal

By Colin NARBROUGH

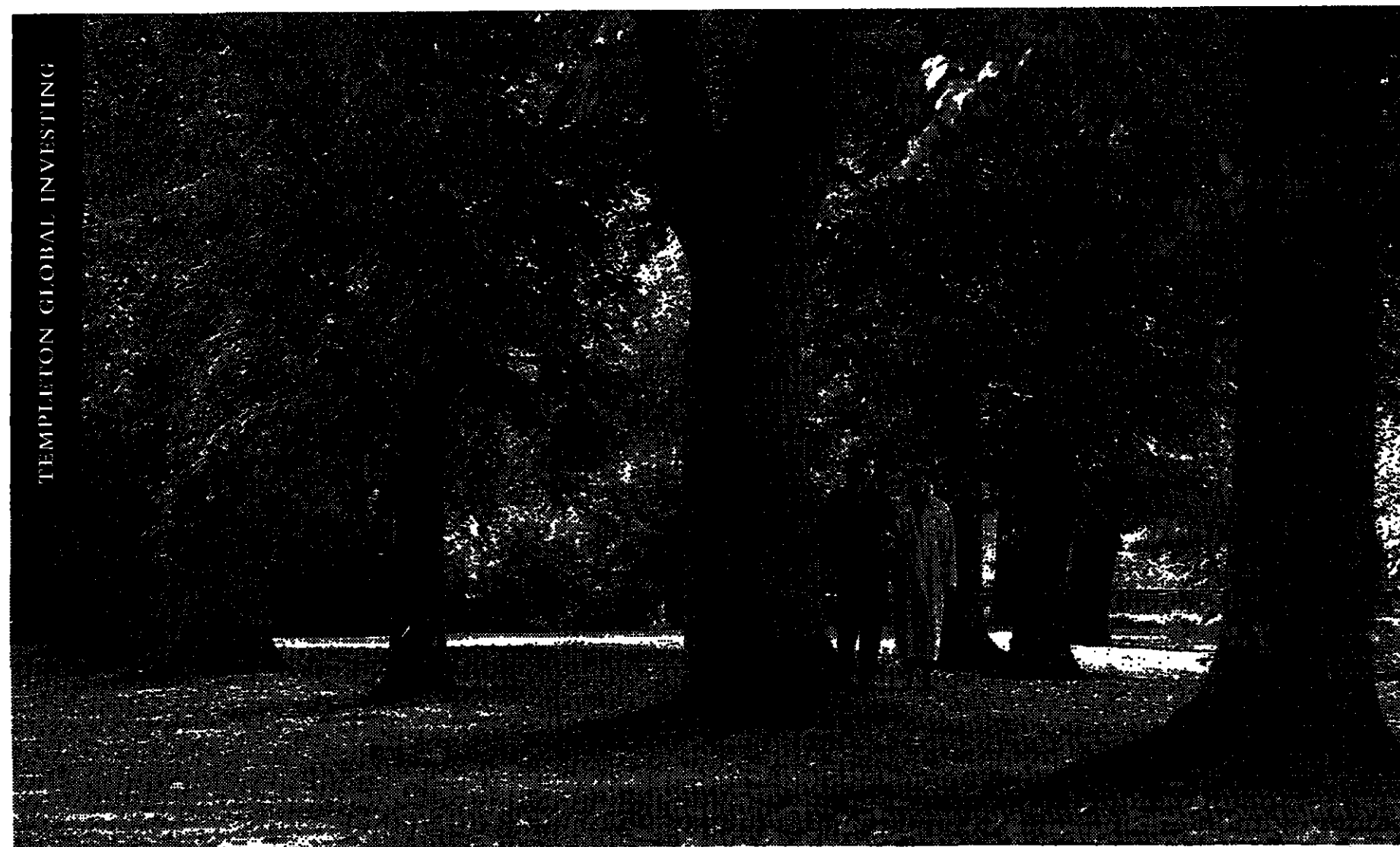
ROLLS-ROYCE Trent engines worth £100 million have been chosen by Gulf Air, the Middle East carrier, to power six Airbus-330 aircraft it has agreed to buy from the European Airbus consortium.

The contract boosted the Rolls-Royce order book to date for its Trent family engines launched in 1992, to about £1.4 billion.

The Airbus consortium, in which British Aerospace is the UK industrial partner, said the aircraft that Gulf Air, based in Bahrain, signed up for yesterday were worth about \$120 million each.

Gulf Air, which has used Rolls-Royce engines for its fleet for 30 years, has ordered 267-seat A330 aircraft, each to be powered by two Trent 772 engines. Delivery is scheduled to start in 1998.

About £900 million of the total order book for Trent engines has come from A330 orders. Although Rolls-Royce has not disclosed the development cost of the Trent, industry estimates put the figure at about £650 million.



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full amount invested; and changes in rates of exchange may cause investment values to fluctuate. However, whether in the UK or Korea, the famous Templeton 'nose for a bargain' is backed by the same stringent investment disciplines and long-term vision. For example, the Templeton Global Growth Unit Trust gives you access to growth potential in some parts of the world balanced by more stability in others.

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Sweeney wins top banking union job

ED SWEENEY, deputy general secretary of Bifu, the banking and finance union, is to take over the top job next March when Leif Mills, Britain's longest-serving general secretary, retires. Mr Sweeney has been Mr Mills' deputy since 1991. He beat John Brawly, his only rival and chief negotiating officer at Midland Bank, by 17,387 votes to 6,213 in a 20 per cent turnout.

Yesterday he reiterated the union's call for Lloyds Bank's bid for TSB to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. He said the bid was "against the interests of customers and staff and would be bad for the economy." He added that 115,000 jobs had gone from the industry since 1990 and Bifu believed that the TSB takeover would destroy another 10,000 jobs and close 650 branches. Lloyds and TSB have refused to comment on the Bifu figures. He said that the union would become more belligerent if it was kept outside the decision-making and the views of staff and customers were ignored.

Wardle Storey rises

WARDLE STOREY, the specialist parachute and inflatables manufacturer, made full-year profits of £7.2 million, a 6.6 per cent increase on comparable results for 1994. This represents a fall of 12.5 per cent on total profits in 1994, after an exceptional profit from a land sale last year is included. The company has made two important acquisitions this year, including the purchase of Para-Flite, the American company which has given the company access to the US military market. The dividend is held at 17.25p and is due on January 4.

Provision hits Rexmore

PROFITS at Rexmore, the furniture supplier, were hit by a £270,000 provision for the sale of its timber merchanting business, falling from £338,000 to £57,000 in the year to September 30. The firm said the furniture market continued to be affected by the lack of recovery in the housing sector and trading had also been dented by the long, hot summer. It said that if difficult trading conditions did not deteriorate further, it expected a satisfactory outcome for the year. The dividend for the year has been held at 1.5p, due on January 19.

Trinity Care expands

TRINITY CARE, the nursing homes operator, has more than doubled the number of beds under operation to 518. But the rate of expansion in the first half to September 30 depressed profits, which plunged from £305,000 to £221,000. The group now has ten homes, with occupancy levels at its four established homes running at 97 per cent. Fee income was up from £2.1 million to £2.88 million, a rise of 44 per cent. Earnings per share were down from 8.6p to 6p. The interim dividend has been held at 1.5p, with payment due on December 14.

James Smith payout up

CONTRIBUTIONS from acquisitions made last year helped James Smith Estates to push profits in the first half to September 24 up 13 per cent to £1.5 million. Its net interest cost was up from £93,000 to £285,000 after use of the cash raised in an open offer last year and the consequent reduction in deposit interest income. Gross rental income for the period was 28 per cent higher at £2.1 million. The interim dividend is lifted 10 per cent to 1.87p, payable on January 16. The firm is seeking property portfolios and individual properties.

Critchley 26% ahead

EARNING the label "stock market darling" is hard enough, keeping it is harder. Critchley Group, the maker of electrical identification markers and components for the telecom industry, yesterday appeared to be maintaining form with a 26 per cent rise in half-time profits to £2.95 million. Ian McCallum, group chief executive, said order books were at record levels and 53 per cent of earnings were from abroad. The group is to raise the interim payout 17 per cent to 3.5p, from earnings per share of 13.9p, against 11.6p last time.

Boom half for Renold

RENOLD, the specialist engineering company, said future profits growth would slow after reporting a 76 per cent pre-tax rise, to £8.1 million, in the first half to September 30. The increase was due to better market conditions and more targeted sales. The interim dividend is 2p (1.2p), to be paid as a foreign-income dividend to alleviate the build-up of surplus advance corporation tax at Renold, which earns significant profits overseas. The foreign-income dividend is enhanced by 0.5p to aid shareholders who benefit from tax credits.

Three buys for Parity

PARITY, the information technology services group, is buying three privately owned companies for a total of £3.5 million. CSS Trident, Parity's agency business, has acquired Software 92, which supplies IT consultants across Europe. Parity Solutions, Parity's other operating division, has bought Eurosoft Solutions in Germany and France. Paul Davies, managing director, said the deals would help to create a continental European software business with annualised sales of about £25 million.

Bond rally boosts shares

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

Company	Price	%
Barclays Bank	125.00	+0.8
Bank of Scotland	118.00	+0.5
Bank of Ireland	110.00	+0.3
Bank of London	105.00	+0.2
Bank of Montreal	100.00	+0.1
Bank of New York	95.00	+0.1
Bank of Paris	90.00	+0.1
Bank of Spain	85.00	+0.1
Bank of Tokyo	80.00	+0.1
Bank of West	75.00	+0.1
Bank of America	70.00	+0.1

DISTRIBUTORS

Company	Price	%
Shell	120.00	+0.5
BP	115.00	+0.4
Esso	110.00	+0.3
Agip	105.00	+0.2
Eni	100.00	+0.1
Indesit	95.00	+0.1
Whirlpool	90.00	+0.1
Electrolux	85.00	+0.1
Grundig	80.00	+0.1
Philips	75.00	+0.1

BREWERIES

Company	Price	%
Guinness	120.00	+0.5
Heineken	115.00	+0.4
Beck's	110.00	+0.3
Carlsberg	105.00	+0.2
Tuborg	100.00	+0.1
Asahi	95.00	+0.1
Daewoo	90.00	+0.1
Hyundai	85.00	+0.1
Ssangyong	80.00	+0.1
Kia	75.00	+0.1

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Company	Price	%
British Airways	120.00	+0.5
British Telecom	115.00	+0.4
British Petroleum	110.00	+0.3
British Steel	105.00	+0.2
British Airways	100.00	+0.1
British Airways	95.00	+0.1
British Airways	90.00	+0.1
British Airways	85.00	+0.1
British Airways	80.00	+0.1
British Airways	75.00	+0.1

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Company	Price	%
Volvo	120.00	+0.5
BMW	115.00	+0.4
Audi	110.00	+0.3
Mercedes-Benz	105.00	+0.2
Porsche	100.00	+0.1
Ford	95.00	+0.1
General Motors	90.00	+0.1
Chrysler	85.00	+0.1
Jeep	80.00	+0.1
Dodge	75.00	+0.1

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Company	Price	%
Unilever	120.00	+0.5
Unilever	115.00	+0.4
Unilever	110.00	+0.3
Unilever	105.00	+0.2
Unilever	100.00	+0.1
Unilever	95.00	+0.1
Unilever	90.00	+0.1
Unilever	85.00	+0.1
Unilever	80.00	+0.1
Unilever	75.00	+0.1

ELECTRICITY

Company	Price	%
British Energy	120.00	+0.5
British Energy	115.00	+0.4
British Energy	110.00	+0.3
British Energy	105.00	+0.2
British Energy	100.00	+0.1
British Energy	95.00	+0.1
British Energy	90.00	+0.1
British Energy	85.00	+0.1
British Energy	80.00	+0.1
British Energy	75.00	+0.1

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Company	Price	%
Hitachi	120.00	+0.5
Hitachi	115.00	+0.4
Hitachi	110.00	+0.3
Hitachi	105.00	+0.2
Hitachi	100.00	+0.1
Hitachi	95.00	+0.1
Hitachi	90.00	+0.1
Hitachi	85.00	+0.1
Hitachi	80.00	+0.1
Hitachi	75.00	+0.1

HEALTHCARE

Company	Price	%
Glaxo	120.00	+0.5
Glaxo	115.00	+0.4
Glaxo	110.00	+0.3
Glaxo	105.00	+0.2
Glaxo	100.00	+0.1
Glaxo	95.00	+0.1
Glaxo	90.00	+0.1
Glaxo	85.00	+0.1
Glaxo	80.00	+0.1
Glaxo	75.00	+0.1

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Company	Price	%
John Lewis	120.00	+0.5
John Lewis	115.00	+0.4
John Lewis	110.00	+0.3
John Lewis	105.00	+0.2
John Lewis	100.00	+0.1
John Lewis	95.00	+0.1
John Lewis	90.00	+0.1
John Lewis	85.00	+0.1
John Lewis	80.00	+0.1
John Lewis	75.00	+0.1

INSURANCE

Company	Price	%
Aviva	120.00	+0.5
Aviva	115.00	+0.4
Aviva	110.00	+0.3
Aviva	105.00	+0.2
Aviva	100.00	+0.1
Aviva	95.00	+0.1
Aviva	90.00	+0.1
Aviva	85.00	+0.1
Aviva	80.00	+0.1
Aviva	75.00	+0.1

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	%
Investment Trust	120.00	+0.5
Investment Trust	115.00	+0.4
Investment Trust	110.00	+0.3
Investment Trust	105.00	+0.2
Investment Trust	100.00	+0.1
Investment Trust	95.00	+0.1
Investment Trust	90.00	+0.1
Investment Trust	85.00	+0.1
Investment Trust	80.00	+0.1
Investment Trust	75.00	+0.1

CHEMICALS

Company	Price	%
Shell	120.00	+0.5
Shell	115.00	+0.4
Shell	110.00	+0.3
Shell	105.00	+0.2
Shell	100.00	+0.1
Shell	95.00	+0.1
Shell	90.00	+0.1
Shell	85.00	+0.1
Shell	80.00	+0.1
Shell	75.00	+0.1

TRANSPORT

Company	Price	%
British Airways	120.00	+0.5
British Airways	115.00	+0.4
British Airways	110.00	+0.3
British Airways	105.00	+0.2
British Airways	100.00	+0.1
British Airways	95.00	+0.1
British Airways	90.00	+0.1
British Airways	85.00	+0.1
British Airways	80.00	+0.1
British Airways	75.00	+0.1

RETAILERS GENERAL

Company	Price	%
John Lewis	120.00	+0.5
John Lewis	115.00	+0.4
John Lewis	110.00	+0.3
John Lewis	105.00	+0.2
John Lewis	100.00	+0.1
John Lewis	95.00	+0.1
John Lewis	90.00	+0.1
John Lewis	85.00	+0.1
John Lewis	80.00	+0.1
John Lewis	75.00	+0.1

WATER

Company	Price	%
British Water	120.00	+0.5
British Water	115.00	+0.4
British Water	110.00	+0.3
British Water	105.00	+0.2
British Water	100.00	+0.1
British Water	95.00	+0.1
British Water	90.00	+0.1
British Water	85.00	+0.1
British Water	80.00	+0.1
British Water	75.00	+0.1

PHARMACEUTICALS

Company	Price	%
Glaxo	120.00	+0.5
Glaxo	115.00	+0.4
Glaxo	110.00	+0.3
Glaxo	105.00	+0.2
Glaxo	100.00	+0.1
Glaxo	95.00	+0.1
Glaxo	90.00	+0.1
Glaxo	85.00	+0.1
Glaxo	80.00	+0.1
Glaxo	75.00	+0.1

PRINTING & PAPER

Company	Price	%
Wiggins Teape	120.00	+0.5
Wiggins Teape	115.00	+0.4
Wiggins Teape	110.00	+0.3
Wiggins Teape	105.00	+0.2
Wiggins Teape	100.00	+0.1
Wiggins Teape	95.00	+0.1
Wiggins Teape	90.00	+0.1
Wiggins Teape	85.00	+0.1
Wiggins Teape	80.00	+0.1
Wiggins Teape	75.00	+0.1

MINING

Company	Price	%
Anglo American	120.00	+0.5
Anglo American	115.00	+0.4
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[illegible]

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return):

A stuffed grizzly bear, madam?

Joseph Connolly highlights some of the antiques and art available at Olympia

If it's November, it must be Olympia: the premier autumn art and antiques fair is back, offering a spectacular array of all that is best from 240 leading British and European dealers. Every sort of collectable and decorative work is on offer, and the price range — with Christmas in mind — is wide.

If you feel in the mood to spend "about £1 million" on a silver-gilt soup tureen (part of a service made by Odier in 1819) then Koopman Rare Art can oblige. A few hundred pounds, however, can buy you one of a range of scent bottles and decanters from Mark West or a very attractive tapestry cushion (16th to 18th century) from Joanna Booth. Other fine but modestly priced items include 19th-century samplers (one of which is pictured right) from Witney Antiques (from £500), 17th to 19th-century commemorative medals from William Agnew (£100 to £600), or a late 18th-century tea

caddy from Robert Harman for as little as £500.

More unusual is a selection of Japanese Meiji period (1868 to 1912) bamboo baskets and pipe cases (£300 to £1,500) from Katie Jones, who also has an appealing pair of red lacquer *Hibachi* — small braziers, from the same period, at £1,550.

Particularly strong this November is the selection of furniture on offer. Among the finest items are an Adam period giltwood serving table (£1,775, £40,000) and a rare and beautiful set of six carvers and six side chairs painted and decorated with gilt and flowers and stamped by John Gee (£1,805, £60,000) — both from Godson & Coles.

Smaller decorative pieces of furniture are available from many of the specialist dealers — a George III mahogany wine cooler, say, from Robert Harman at £8,000, or — for £2,000 more — a pretty Regency harp from Market House



An 1834 sampler embroidered by Elizabeth Corney, aged 13

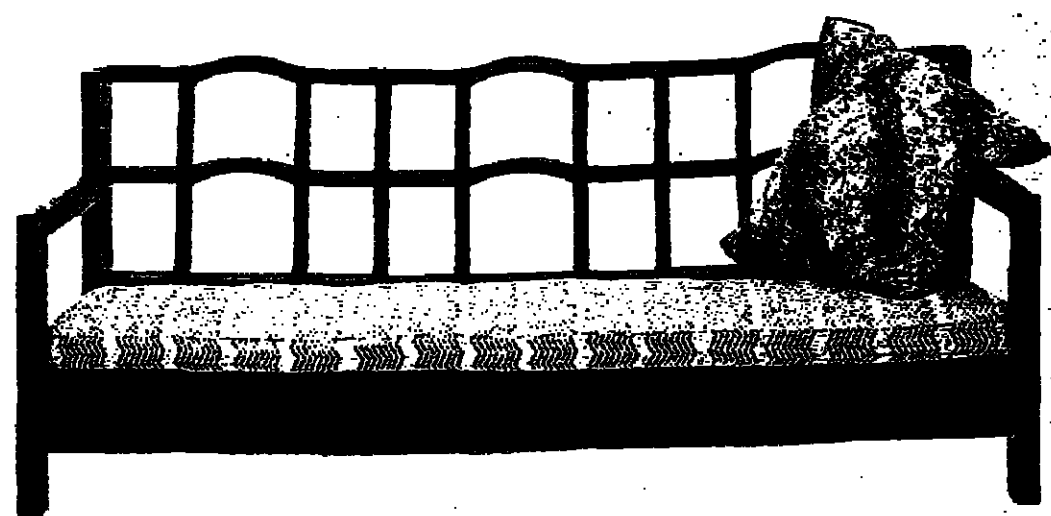
Antiques. For £18,500, John Bly can supply a unique japanned toleware mirror — magnificently decorated in the chinoiserie style in crimson and gold — complete with the Spencer family coat of arms.

Fine art is also extremely well represented — prints and drawings from £100 right up to first-class artworks as varied as 15th-century Florentine frescoes. Impressionists such as Sickert and modern Eng-

lish painters (Duncan Grant, for instance). My personal favourite would be a signed and dated (1877) oil by John Atkinson Grimshaw of Stapleton Park, Pontefract (£30,000 from Walker Galleries).

Jewellery and watches are always particularly popular in the November fair — Didier Antiques has a Liberty & Co turquoise and gold brooch designed by Archibald Knox (c.1900, £2,650) while Bloom

Stars of Arts and Crafts



EVERY Olympia Fair boasts a lone exhibition — a display concentrating on an aspect of art or antiques of current interest. This season the host art gallery is Cheltenham. Its collection of the British Arts and Crafts Movement is virtually unrivalled. An unusually wide range of art and artefacts is on show — leatherwork, silver and jewellery from C. R. Ashbee's Guild of Handicraft and some fine and representative furniture by such luminaries as

Baillie Scott, Ambrose Heal and, most notably, Gimson and the Barnsleys (a settee designed by Sidney Barnsley is pictured above).

The star of the show belongs to C. S. A. Voysey: the legendary Kelmscott Chaucer Cabinet, designed in 1899 specifically to house a copy of William Morris's peerless printed text, produced by his own Kelmscott Press in 1896. This piece has not been seen in London since the year it was built.

at Olympia has been vetted by an independent panel.

Among the mainstream at Olympia there always lurks the off-beat: the unique item that, for every hundred people who cannot comprehend why such a thing was even manufactured, there will be one who falls in love with it and has to have it. This season's example must be from Geoffrey Stead: a hatstand in the form of an 8ft 3in bamboo

trunk to which a full-sized stuffed grizzly bear is clinging: 19th century — of course — and £3,500; not much for a conversation piece that could well strike people dumb.

●The Fine Art & Antiques Fair, Olympia, is held from November 15-21: Wednesday (Nov 15) 6-10pm; Thursday 11am-9pm; Friday 11am-8pm; Saturday and Sunday 11am-7pm; Monday 11am-8pm and Tuesday 11am-5pm. Entrance is £10, including catalogue.

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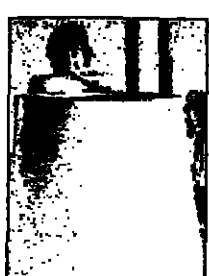
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■ VISUAL ART 1

From the dour Bradford youth to the brilliant Californian master: the Royal Academy celebrates Hockney



■ VISUAL ART 2

The beautiful products of minimalism: Wilding and Gallaccio share a Nottingham show

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3

Veteran sculptor Eduardo Chillida continues to tease the imagination with shapely creations



■ VISUAL ART 4

... while a London gallery offers 21 artists the chance to try out a new style and personality

Richard Cork on David Hockney, 'the most brilliant draughtsman of his generation', at the RA; plus other exhibitions

Following the lines of genius

Nobody would guess, from the earliest exhibit in David Hockney's *Drawing Retrospective* at the Royal Academy, that he would become the most brilliant and versatile draughtsman of his generation. A diligent ink study of a near-naked woman posing in the life class, it suggests that Hockney was a model of quiet orthodoxy at Bradford School of Art. Only 17 at the time, he was still five years away from enrolment and precocious success at the Royal College of Art.

Between these two bouts of training, Hockney worked as a conscientious objector in National Health hospitals. His refusal to join the armed services highlights one of his central characteristics as an artist: an instinctive avoidance of aggression and pain. However dour his early studies of

the male nude. And, in a superb crayon study called *The Singer*, he announces his prolonged love affair with the stage. Henceforth, many of Hockney's images become theatrical. Wherever they may be based, in Luxor or Los Angeles, his figures perform like actors before an audience. Hockney arranges their surroundings like a seasoned set designer, constantly stressing the artifice involved in his deft manipulation of scene-changes.

Although he was dubious when invited to work on his first stage production, for Jarry's *Ubu Roi* at the Royal Court in 1966, the challenge was irresistible. Hockney is an outstanding designer of sets and costumes. The humour and piquant colour of his Jarry studies leap off the paper, prophesying the *élan* with which Hockney would take on a succession of spectacular opera commissions.

Hockney's later art refuses to succumb to gloom

may be, they stop well short of outright protest. The year was 1956, when young British writers began voicing their anger with unprecedented violence. But Hockney went no further than hinting, in a wistful pencil drawing of a solitary child in Mount Street, at the privation blighting his native town.

He was, nevertheless, part of an emergent generation determined to push against barriers. Soon after arriving at the RCA, Hockney shed the doggedness of his provincial years. He appears resolute in a 1961 ink self-portrait, staring keenly out at the world from a tangle of lines. His Bradford teachers would have abhorred the wildness of this whirling sketch. But Hockney never looked back. He began exploring his own homosexuality in smeared and smudged images, spattered with swear-words.

As if realising the dangers inherent in his facility with pencil and pen, Hockney seems bent on resisting empty virtuosity. *Dollboy*, his coded declaration of love for Cliff Richard, is deliberately wispy. It is also forlorn. With his spindly arms and dangling head, the figure seems burdened by the confessional word "Queen" inscribed so brazenly on his body.

Outwardly, though, the Hockney of the early 1960s was an unstoppable prodigy. His blond rince and gold lamé jackets broadcast the success which gained him a devoted dealer who bought all the work produced in his final year at the RCA. He graduated in 1962, and quickly set about expanding his pictorial language. Spiky coloured drawings of a *Colonial Governor*, laden with pompous plumes and insignia, reveal a nimble gift for satire. *Man Running Towards a Bit of Blue* pokes fun at abstraction, while confirming a passionate involvement with

shows the nude youth submitting to the cleansing jet like a figure in a Renaissance baptism.

For all their overt homoeroticism, there is a disarming innocence about these studies. Hockney installed a rudimentary shower in his Notting Hill flat, and began drawing naked models from life. The process intensified when he visited LA in 1964. His shower drawings grew more suave and openly erotic. Even the studies of an empty swimming pool, enlivened only by the ropes of light undulating across their surface, imply the submerged presence of a diving youth.

Hockney revelled in the hedonism of California. The clean clarity of the Beverly Hills drawings shows how his new surroundings drove him towards a greater simplicity and refinement. At the same time, though, there is a disquieting sterility about the neatness of these vacant bedrooms. The spray from the lawn sprinklers may preserve the grass, but an odd, becalmed melancholy hangs over the deserted houses beyond. Hockney's subversive streak lingers in these deceptively bland studies, and in *Coloured Head* he transforms a Californian art collector into a bloated, lumpish and, above all, joyless predator.

On the whole, though, he increasingly preferred to concentrate on pleasurable subjects. The arrival in his life of Peter Schlesinger, then a history student at the University of California, precipitated his most sensual



The artist and his art at the Royal Academy: "One of Hockney's central characteristics as an artist is an instinctive avoidance of aggression and pain"

drawings. Whether in the Dream Inn at Santa Cruz, or the Albergo la Flora in Rome, the young man reclining naked on a bed seems in a trance, staring at the ceiling while Hockney defines the contours of his body with thin, rapid pen-strokes.

But there is a coolness about these drawings, too. Schlesinger seems to have withdrawn into his own world, and a curious lack of communication between sitter and artist is implied. When Schlesinger poses clothed, at the Hotel Regina in Venice, his detachment appears even more marked. Head thrown back on the armchair, he exposes his stubbly chin and seems oblivious of Hockney's watchful presence. Within a couple of years their relationship deteriorated. In the last drawing of Schlesinger he looks altogether removed from the artist.

But Hockney has always been gregarious and plenty of other sitters fed his fascination with people. Although many are young and personable, others defy the beautiful norm. Henry Geldzahler, fat and almost dazed, stares forward with eyes alarmingly enlarged by his circular spectacles. Auden's prodigious wrinkles crease his skin so harshly that his entire face seems about to disintegrate.

As for Hockney's parents, they are incisively contrasted. His mother is erect and statuesque, gazing directly at her son. The father, on the other hand, seems rumpled and frail as he collapses on Hockney's capacious sofa. In February 1978, Hockney drew his mother again on the day of his father's funeral. This time, although buttressed against the cold by a fur hat and coat,

she looks shrunken and weary. But her eyes seem to have grown, and they still fix themselves on her son with a searching intensity which he must have inherited.

Hockney is clearly addicted to drawing. If a day passes without a pen, pencil or crayon being applied to white paper, he must feel ill-at-ease. His friends are certainly prepared to help by submitting to his scrutiny again and again. Nobody emerges more triumphantly from the ordeal than Celia Birtwell, who appears with Ossie Clark in his most celebrated portrait painting. Auburn-haired and graceful, she is Hockney's female idol. Dressed only in a black slip in a Paris hotel, her crisply drawn figure made me wonder how much Hockney may owe to Toulouse-Lautrec. But the most radiant Celia portrait is more Matissean, juxtaposing her luminous face with white flowers hanging over her black jacket like a benediction.

The most moving late portraits, though, focus on Hockney's mother. Asleep on a chair in 1994, and far thinner than before, she seems about to dissolve into her cushions. Near by, in some crayon drawings executed the same year, a shockingly gaunt and dying Geldzahler seems barely able to keep his eyelids open. Hockney's art at last manages to confront suffering directly here, but he refuses to succumb to gloom. His mother manages, in the strongest of her recent portraits, to train her large, dark pupils on her son. As clear and intent as ever, they prove that the urge to look can last long after bodily strength begins to fade away.

David Hockney: A Drawing Retrospective at the Royal Academy (0171-494 5615) until Jan 28

You could read this, like so many of the artist's previous works, as a satire upon the art world's obsession with collection and preservation: if art is to be living, Gallaccio seems to be saying, you have to accept transience.

But *Rainbow* does more than this. The sheer size of the chain, the repetitive physical labour which has gone into it, presents itself as a grotesque parody of the effortlessness of a little girl's play. And the choice of gerbers is disquieting, too: so colourful as to border on the synthetic, so fleshy as to verge on the obscene. There is an excess, a blowness about them which retrospectively pollutes any thoughts of innocence.

There is something nightmarish here: like seeing a grown woman dressed in children's clothes. Gallaccio's work has always been thoughtful and entertaining but it benefits enormously from this new hint of autobiographical urgency.

Angel Row Gallery, Angel Row, Nottingham (0115 947 6346, until Saturday)

Andrew Norris's new show, *Sites, Signs and Ancient Shrines*, is more mysterious than at first it looks. Its ostensible subject is the Pilgrim's Way, depicted in acrylic and gouache, and evoked also in artist's books which combine, in contemporary fashion, photographs and charts with twigs and leaves found on site.

But look a little closer, and something quite different emerges. Take, for example, *The White Horse of Uffington* (Oxfordshire), a large gouache. At a glance it appears almost abstract, a construction of rich green areas relieved by elusive ribbons of white which snake in and out of the picture. Without the title you would never guess what it was. With the title, it chimes perfectly with one of Norris's major preoccupations, the relationship between the seen and the unseen, the psychological layering of the landscape whereby the contributions of all the generations have inhabited it or passed over it are somehow encoded.

The Rocket Gallery, 13 Old Burlington Street, W1 (0171-434 3043), until Nov 26

In an exhibition entitled *Interference*, Andy Cohen has set up a factory process where variously coloured Easter chicks are turned out in batches on top of a table inside the gallery entrance. Rubber dildos, coshes and the yellow, white and brown chicks come either in soft plastic or hard plaster. An air of domestic industry is quickly and illogically displayed.

Gill Ord paints ink blots onto photographs. A page showing ducks from an early guidebook is covered with this simple surface interference. A close-up photograph of mud, heat-transferred onto canvas, is also affected by a splattered virus.

Carrie Yarnoka paints and draws: covering and tarnishing mirrors, she produces imagery that functions literally at two different levels. Suzanne Walker paints the basic formal ingredients of a formalist building in thick black onto canvas, while Joy Espisalla transplants dye onto flat material to conjure up the lives of two women who probably lived together a long time ago.

London Artforms Gallery, 7-15 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (0171-837 1900), until Nov 23

More than 16 hours of video works by some 60 artists have been chosen by Michael

AROUND THE GALLERIES

The exhibition at Arneley Juda of recent sculptures and works on paper by Eduardo Chillida shows the Basque artist, now in his seventies, in fine, familiar form. But it also sheds new light on the springs of his creativity. The works on paper are seldom straightforward drawings. Frequently they are themselves slightly sculptural, collages of interestingly textured papers and painted areas, usually stark black on white. But tucked away there are also some vivid drawings of hands, and looking back from them to the abstracts one can see how the patterns assumed by the fingers in normal gesture are reflected in otherwise indecipherable abstractions.

The rusting steel sculptures continue to explore Chillida's familiar world of curving, interlocking shapes, but also included is the wonderfully teasing fired clay piece *Lurra G-77*, a roughly cubic block, fissured in such a way as to suggest at once the cogs of a machine and the teeth in a skull. This is art which niggles the imagination long after the immediate experience has passed.

Agnew's, 43 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 6176), until Nov 17

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Corris. There is an art, however, to selecting from a list so long and a brief so wide. It is never possible to see everything at once or to understand it all fully. Judgment is almost beside the point as one fast-forwards from an interview with members of a street gang in the Bronx to Max Wigram solitarily singing *Hey Girl* in front of the camera.

Despite its rather offputting title, the exhibition *Pretext: Heteronymy* is based on a simple idea. Twenty-one artists were each invited to invent another artist with "a separate and distinct identity, existence and language", and then to make work as if by this imaginary being. The show, taking place on a number of floors in a warehouse, is a maze of real clues and false hints.

The first noticeable intervention at the start of the trail is a row of miniature roses held against mirrors on the wall by plastic funnels. Upstairs a series of knocked-through rooms reveals different tableaux, each labeled with the name of its own fictional originator.

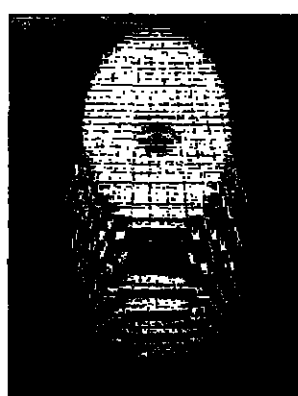
Although some of the artists in the show do seem to have used the opportunity to make art they might not otherwise have made, others appear cautious about the possibilities of make-believe and find it hard to leave themselves behind.

Rear Window at Clink Street Studios, 1 Clink Street, London SE1 (0171 739 3707) until Dec 10

SACHA CRADDOCK

Resounding success

Charles Hall is impressed by an exhibition which brings together two contrasting British sculptors



Reflected glories: Alison Wilding's sculpture Echo

Wilding produced a very similar sculpture, *Blue*, two years ago. Then, the grid was built out of a bluish, transparent Perspex, so the central sphere was quite clearly visible, like the nucleus of a translucent cell, or the brain of some benign but alien life form. The switch in materials has heightened the sense that Wilding can take the most masculine of materials, and the most impersonal of minimalist aesthetics, and render them magical and fertile.

Wilding shares the gallery with Anya Gallaccio. Wilding's subtle geometric forms and contemporary industrial materials could hardly be further removed from the lush excess we have come to expect

from Gallaccio, who made her name with installations in which masses of sunflowers were either laid on the floor or squashed against a gallery window, slowly evolving from flamboyant decadence to outright decay.

But Gallaccio, like Wilding, is an artist adapting the procedures of minimalism to her own ends. She exhibits objects in something barely removed from their natural condition, then invites you to stand back and observe as the physical qualities of her materials become manifest.

In *Rainbow*, she has draped an entire gallery with gerbers, fastened together to form what is, in effect, an outside daisy chain. It is, as

one would expect, a striking sight. But it is also a designedly distasteful one: Gallaccio is an allegorist in disguise.

Childhood daisy chains are made to be discarded, but *Rainbow* will be in the gallery for weeks, decaying where it hangs — or trodden into a pulp by careless art lovers.

PUB SONGS ON RADIO3.

Fairfax Isle

TWO HANDFULS LONG, SIR FEATURES THE LYRICS OF PURCELL'S BAWDY BAR ROOM SONGS. RECORDED LIVE AT YE OLDE MITRE, CHANCERY LANE, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18TH AT 9.20PM.

SEE PAGE 3

CHOICE

Curtain up on David Hare's new version of Brecht's *Mother Courage*

VENUE: Opening tonight at the National (Olivier)

OPERA

Young singers and actors shine in the Guildhall School's staging of *King Arthur*

THE TIMES ARTS

MUSIC 1

Sir Simon Rattle leads the CBSO's 75th birthday bash, but the premiere doesn't rise to the occasion

MUSIC 2

... while Markus Stenz conducts a night of music at the far end of minimalism

Worthy of full and frequent revival

OPERA
King Arthur
Guildhall School

In Purcell's tercentenary year the "semi-opera" *King Arthur*, or *The British Worthy* has recovered some of the popularity it enjoyed during the century or so following its premiere in 1691. This latest version — one of at least four seen in London in the past 12 months — chose the most ambitious of the various performance options, giving Purcell's score in its original context, as part of a five-act verse drama by Dryden, rather than linking the music with narration.

The challenges of such a performance — it demands two casts (one of actors, one of singers), as well as musicians and dancers — made it an attractive showcase for the combined talents of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the Royal Conservatory of The Hague, and the London Contemporary Dance School. An added and rather unfair challenge was provided by Graham Vick's extraordinary, unforgettable staging of the same work, seen in May at Covent Garden.

Lacking the resources to rival Vick's extravagant spectacle, Francisco Negrin's Guildhall production sensibly kept things fairly simple. The designer, Isabella Bywater, wrought some effective transformations with painted cloths and curtains, aided by atmospheric lighting from Davy Cunningham. Choreography, by the Baroque specialist Ana Yebes, mirrored and pointed the drama.

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Nicholas Irons — "a dashing Arthur" — and the "touching and ingenious Emmeline" of Emily Bruni

performers. The beauties of Purcell's score were clearly displayed in a taut reading under the distinguished direction of Ton Koopman. Among the vocal roles, Julian Sarge's superb Cold Genius, Louise Cannon's bright Cupid, and the vividly squabbling sprites of Adele Ekenes (Philidel) and Philip O'Brien (Grimbal) stood out. The chorus made an incisive contribution.

The virtues of Dryden's verse are less obvious than those of Purcell's music, but the spoken drama, at once absurd and affecting, can be made to work, if the right tone is found. After a hesitant start the actors relaxed into something like a convincing idiom.

Fergus Webster's earthy Merlin, more dignified than a man in a loincloth and blue body-paint has any right

to be, saw off the challenge of Christopher Ryman's malign (red-painted) Osmond. Emily Bruni's Emmeline was a touching study in ingenious passion. In Nicholas Irons's dashing Arthur she found a worthy match: only a haircut stands between him and a memorable Henry V.

IAN BRUNSKILL

CONCERTS: Birmingham's 75th anniversary bash falls flat; minimal excellence in London

Ode to overkill
CBSO/Rattle
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham

HAD they not performed Beethoven's *Choral Symphony* with the same soloists in the same place a few days ago, and were they not about to do the same thing the following day, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus might have attracted a full house to the CBSO's 75th anniversary concert. Even then, Simon Rattle's uncharacteristically clumsy programme, offering two newly commissioned works and Vaughan Williams's *Serenade to Music* before the Beethoven, would have been a deterrent.

Of the two new works, moreover, only John Adams's *Lollapalooza*, which he finished in California a week before the scheduled first performance, arrived in time. Oliver Knussen's score did not turn up at all — which was neither unpredictable nor unforgivable, although it was a bizarre idea to replace it with the same composer's *Flourish with Fireworks* which, with its encrypted messages to Michael Tilson

Thomas and the LSO, was singularly inappropriate to the CBSO occasion. *Flourish* is, on the other hand, brilliantly and intricately scored and has more musical ideas embedded in its densely packed two minutes than in any length of Adams's *Lollapalooza*.

As it is, *Lollapalooza* lasts about six minutes and — modestly described by the composer as "Mark Twain meets Bolero" — consists of innumerable repetitions of the same cheerfully syncretized rhythmic figure sustained in one part of the orchestra and set against the conflicting rhythms of other high-tension material elsewhere.

Nothing could have contrasted more violently with the *Serenade to Music*, beautifully performed by the CBSO and a well-prepared ensemble of voices drawn from the four *Choral Symphony* soloists and 12 recent graduates of British conservatories, all under Rattle's inspired direction.

Although this 75th-anniversary concert did not turn out exactly as predicted in Beresford King-Smith's *Crescendo*, his history of the CBSO, the book is no less valuable for that. It fulfils a formidable task of compilation and selection both wisely and engagingly and gets the balance of information and anecdote just about right. *Crescendo* has just acquired another dimension in an EMI reissue of CBSO recordings from about 1940 to the present day.

GERALD LARNER

Reduced to essentials
LS/Stenz
Queen Elizabeth Hall

IF ANYONE thought that the spareness of Webern's scores, in last Sunday's London Sinfonietta concert (reviewed here last week), provided the *ne plus ultra* of compositional economy, then the second of the Sinfonietta's pair of concerts, on Friday, will have come as a shock to them.

A score each by Morton Feldman and Luigi Nono were given their UK premieres, both exemplifying the austerity of the 1980s. The Feldman score dates from 1987, the last year of his life. Its title, *For Samuel Beckett*, hints at the reductive nature of the work: the slow alternation of chords, lasting some 50 minutes, on one level enters the realm of the absurd, but on another concentrates the mind rigorously on essentials. The chording is beautifully calculated: a gentle dissonance enhanced by the timbres of piano, vibraphone and harp topped brass and wind. Consistently off the beat, the motion resembles the breathing of a giant organism. But it is subject to evolution, causing periodic irregularities that one

almost comes to resent as a disruption of a tranquil, dreamlike state.

The players of the Sinfonietta, under Markus Stenz, kept their nerve, preserving the unruffled surface. Feldman's predilection for the repeated patterns of oriental carpets inspired the visual presentation (by Dick Straker and Marcus Tate) that accompanied the piece. Images from African/Coptic tapestries and rugs were projected onto large revolving screens. I did not find the evolving patterns a helpful accompaniment and one section of the audience voiced its displeasure in no uncertain terms.

Nono's *Quando stanno morendo*, *Diario polacco* No 2 sets a series of verses on the general theme "when men are dying, they sing". But this is no conventional word-setting: the lines of the four female voices (Nicola Tibbels, Carole Court, Olive Simpson and Susan Flannery) are attenuated in the extreme. Accompanied only by alto flute (Sebastian Bell) and cello (Christopher van Kampen) the voices are modulated by live electronics (Ian Dearden and David Sheppard). So minute are the pitch and timbre transformations, and so skilfully handled the electronic distortions that it was impossible to judge the intonation of the vocalists. At any event, this was a highly enterprising and rewarding programme, executed admirably by the participants.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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LONDON

MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN Opening night for Diana Rigg, making her return to the National in the role of Brecht's epic dramatization of war. Jonathan Kent directs a new version by David Hare, with music by Jonathan Dove. National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-908 2252), Tonight, 7pm. Next on Nov 23, in rep. (2)

DAVID BOWIE/MORRISSEY The new album may be something of a cruel disappointment, but you can never win off the great Bowie performance. His latest includes Carlos Alomar, Reeves Gabele and Mike Ganser, and he is supported by his own right Morrissey to open the show. Wembley Arena, Middlesex (0181-902 1234), Tonight/Wed, Fri-Sat, next in Birmingham, NEC, (0121-780 4133), Nov 20, 21

MAURIZIO POLLINI The great Italian pianist gives a recital of favourites by Schubert and Chopin, as part of the South Bank's acclaimed International Piano series. Don't miss your chance to hear the master — it will be his last concert in London before his complete farewell tour. South Bank, SE1 (0171-990 4242), Tonight, 7.30pm. (2)

BEFORE THE PARTY Chameleon Productions review Rodney Aspin's play based on a Somerset Maugham story. Shocking family secrets emerge on the eve of what should be a scrupulously nice village celebration. Prince of Orange, 18 Greenwich High Road, SE10 (0181-858 9255), Preview tonight and tomorrow, and opens Thurs, 8pm

EDDIE IZZARD The quirky comedian returns for another season of surreal musings on life. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Ave, WC2 (0171-373 5359), Tue-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 7.30pm. (2)

FUNKY MONKEY Ray Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of bank notes in his latest farce. Charlie Drake excellent as a sordidly inept director. Phoenix, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 5pm and Sat, 5pm. (2)

THE GRANNIE Black stars by gentleman Roberto Costa, Richard Kane and Kim Wynne struggle to avert financial ruin as their 100-year-old home goes everything in sight. Jamie Lee direct. The LWT Plays on Stage award-winner. Adelphi, Shaftesbury, SW19 (0181-542 6141), Opens tonight, 8pm, Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until Dec 9

HOBBSON'S CHOICE Lee Mack in the title role of Harold Brighouse's warm-hearted comedy. Nichols McAuliffe and Graham Turner excellent as daughter and son-in-law. Adelphi, Shaftesbury, SW19 (0181-542 6141), Opens tonight, 8pm, Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until Dec 9

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A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kirs Anderson

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM The Alexandra's double bill of festive fare opens with Anthony Newley's *Songbook*. Written by Oscar-winner Leslie Bricusse, with Felicity Soper, David Alder and Martin Hubbard as the Christmas Ghosts and Paul Lockwood as Jacob Marley. Alexandra, Suffolk Street, Queensway (0121-643 1231), Opens tonight, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. (2)

CONVENTRY Anastasia Hill takes the title role in *Chick*, by Jock MacIsaac. The Duchess of Hatt, Douan Donnell directs Weaver's tragedy of incest, murder and borderlands of the mind: designs by Nick Ormrod. Warwick Arts Centre, University of Warwick (01223 624244), Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. (2)

GLASGOW The eminent Romanian director Silviu Purvulescu directs Michael Frayn's *Tommy*, an unusually young Prospero in *The Tempest*. A mysteriously haunting spectacle, co-produced with the Nottingham Playhouse and Theatre Chyd. Tronway, Albany Drive (0141-227 5511), Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. (2)

WATFORD Opening night for Sara Groves as the seductive Diana in Pauline's French Without Tears. His first contract, Tim Lacombe directs. Palace, Clarendon Road (01925 235 571), Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm; mats Nov 15, 2.30pm and Nov 25, Dec 2, 3pm. Until Dec 2. (2)

LONDON GALLERIES **Barbican:** Dore Carrington, Art of African Textiles (0171-638 4141). **British Library Galleries:** John Lewis 1793-1821, editions, manuscripts, portraits, notes (0171-412 7114). **British Museum:** Westminster Kings and the Medieval Palace of Westminster (0171-638 1558). **Hayward:** Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1930-1945 (0171-628 5144). **National Gallery:** Gods in Love: The Canova Caricatures (0171-747 2885). **National Portrait Gallery:** John Korbalt Photographic Portrait Award (0171-306 0055). **Saatchi:** Young British Artists V (0171-824 8258). **Tate:** Dineria: Paintings in Tudor and Jacobean England, Turner Prize 1995 Exhibition (0171-887 8000). **W & A:** San Lorenzo Salvemini: Study of the Envelope: famous art and design sketches (0171-838 8500). **Whitechapel:** Seven Studies about Modern Art in Africa (0171-522 7888).

JOLSON: The highs and lows of the singer with a monster ego. Brian Courty tells us how songs, songs, and songs. Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-434 1317), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. (2)

THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE: A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William Shakespeare. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-838 9587), Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 5.30pm. (2)

SON OF MAN: Dennis Potter's story of the life of Christ (Joseph Fiennes), religious rebel. Strong singing, good design, understated power. P.L. Barrow, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8881), Tonight, 7.15pm. (2)

THREE TALL WOMEN: Meggs Smith, Sam Koster and Samantha Bond in Edward Albee's fascinating play about the adoptive mother who whored her childhood. Wyndham, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-389 1735), Tue-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. (2)

WHAT A SHOW! Musical spectacular revival of the singing, dancing Tommy Steele. W1 (0171-433 5887), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm. Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

THE HOLocaust TRIOLOGY: Julia Pascal's three plays, unrelated save for the common theme of Nazi persecution. Theresa, degenerate behaviour in the Nazi occupation. Channel Islands: A Dead Woman on Holiday, a Jewish survivor working at the Nuremberg Trials. The Dybbuk, classic drama relocated to a 1942 ghetto. New End, New End, Hampstead, NW3 (0171-734 0022), Thurs, from Nov 14, 8pm. Mon-Sat, 8pm. All three performed Nov 21, and on Sundays, 3pm, 7pm, 9pm. Until Dec 10. (2)

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Dillit's powerful production, with (and without) the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-434 5885), Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm; Sat, 5pm. (2)

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

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WHEN NIGHT AS FALLING (18) Canadian



POP 1

Why Bette Midler, high priestess of bawd, has gone all tasteful for her new album



POP 2

Dinosaur night in Brixton, as Iron Maiden let rip to a diminishing band of supporters

THE TIMES
ARTS



THEATRE

New plays explore moral dilemmas in the Nazi camps, and hypocrisy among the middle classes of Bristol



TOMORROW

How the composer Hindemith used the story of a medieval painter to make a coded attack on Hitler

Has the queen of the single entendre done the dirty and cleaned up her act? Alan Jackson reports

Midler takes out the trash

She doesn't look like a woman who could make dockers blush with the rawness of her humour. Three weeks away from her 50th birthday, she greets me at her London hotel soberly suited by Donna Karan and wearing horn-rimmed glasses and sensible shoes. Bette Midler's public persona is that of the cheerful vulgarian — "trash with flash, sleaze with ease" — but her off-stage self proves to be a model of seriousness and understatement. Oscar-nominated actress, certainly. Grammy-winning singer, yes. But can this really be the one-time high priestess of bawd?

In preparation for our meeting, I had played a copy of her 1985 stand-up comedy album, *Mud Will Be Flung Tonight!* A sample? On Madonna: "Pity the poor soul who has to rinse out that gal's lingerie..." Was the neatly dressed, serious-minded social activist sitting beside me still capable of dishing out the barbed, often base, occasionally cruel humour in which the album specialised? Midler raises a querying — possibly a warning — eyebrow and hesitates. She is silent for a few moments, and then: "You say my humour was cruel," she says. "Maybe it was. It all seems like a long time ago, and the cruelty stakes have upped so much since then. I mean, come on... I'm a cream puff compared to some of the girls doing comedy today. There are thresholds I can't cross."

What about the jokes she used to tell about the tragic Karen Carpenter? "I was really sorry I did that, because the main thing is never to kick anyone when they're down." "On the one hand, some people are so huge in terms of celebrity that it seems they've made themselves very large targets. On the other, I don't like it when others do it to me. Really, I see no point to that kind of humour any more, so yes, maybe you do grow out of it. Or, more exactly, you become aware of the effect it can have. And that awareness can only come with age."

She seems uncomfortable with the topic, so I turn to *Bette of Roses*, her new studio album and her first in five years, released here just yesterday on the eastwest label. It

has done very well in America. I begin blandly. "Has done? Has done? Is doing," she corrects, cheering herself up with a burst of mock-outrage. "And I think I've sold every single copy of it personally. My God, I've been promoting it like a crazy woman, up at 4am every morning to appear on this TV show or that. But I think it's one of the best records I've made, so I'm anxious for people to hear it. And it's very difficult to shift significant numbers without making a very great effort, particularly

"I find a lot of current music to be like junk food"

for someone at my stage of life. The days when you could just put something out and watch it take off are long gone. Adapt or die; that's how it is in this business."

Although straying further towards the confident sound of New Country balladeering than its predecessors, the LP confirms Midler's winning way with a narrative lyric — past successes such as *From a Distance* or *Wind Beneath My Wings* may not have been the original versions, but they connected with the hearts of millions of record-buyers. What does she see as the difference between her relatively unaffected style and that of a subsequent and rather more self-aggrandising generation of female singers? "Vocal pyrotechnics? Endless, endless riffs? I'm not sure that simply presenting a song isn't just as viable," she says.

"When Aretha [Franklin] did all that stuff, there was never an extraneous note — she had such restraint and good taste. But a lot of times now, I hear technique taking precedence over song. Consequently, I find a lot of current music to be like junk food: it's appetising on a superficial level, but has little substance and so isn't satisfying."

"As a fellow singer, I find the production and the mathematical precision interesting. It's like coloratura — fabulous in itself, but with no real emotional content and, ultimately, unbelievably wearing."

Not that Midler doesn't still go the whole hog in performance. For the past two summers, she has toured North America with a show involving more than 60 people. "Strippers, mermaids with fishtails, we had it all... it was a very big production, but great fun to do."

In between, she has been adapting to a life on a different coast. Earthquakes were the final straw that convinced her, her husband and nine-year-old daughter to move from Los Angeles to New York. "I still have a house in LA and I visit about once a month, but I'm actually quite happy to be gone," Midler says. "It wasn't my town any more. I couldn't take the mentality. It was too crass even for me. I mean, *Dumb and Dumber*. *Dumbest*. And now *The Stupids*. Do I want to invest all my life experience, all my training and ambition, in making a film called *The Stupids*? Please, gimme a break. Yes, I could write and direct my own movies, but I haven't gotten around to sitting down and doing that yet. I guess I'm a scattered sort of person. If I see something glittering, I follow it."

American audiences are already acclaiming her performance amid a cast including Gene Hackman, John Travolta and Danny DeVito in a film adaptation of Elmore Leonard's *Get Shorty*, due here in the spring. And, on her return to America, she will begin filming *The First Wives Club*, a social satire based on the novel by Olivia Goldsmith and co-starring Diane Keaton, Goldie Hawn and Maggie Smith. "It's very broad, very funny," she says. "A revenge picture, if you like. It's about that breed of women who devote their lives to their husbands, then get dumped for trophy wives once the men get successful."

She is looking forward to making it, but really trash is where Midler is at these days. So what's new, you might ask? This is a different kind of trash



"On the one hand, some people are so huge they've made themselves very large targets," Bette Midler says of her comedy fodder. "On the other, I don't like it when others do it to me"

though. On relocating to Manhattan, she found herself appalled by the neglected state of many of its neighbourhood parks, its paucity of trees and over-abundance of discarded rubbish. The shock made her a zealous and very public campaigner for change. "But don't get me on to that subject, or we'll be here all night," she says. "Let's just say it's my mission to get trash off the streets and back on to the stage, where it belongs."

● *Bette of Roses* is released by eastwest records

Headbanging dinosaurs die in dry-ice age

ROCK

Iron Maiden
Brixton Academy

This is not an easy time for Iron Maiden. A relic from a bygone era, they have never achieved mainstream acceptance but now find themselves sidelined even within the specialist heavy metal market, where bands from Metallica to Pantera have introduced a more virulent strain of music to the headbangers' ball. They have also been outflanked by the grunge revolution which, apart from bringing a new level of sophistication to power-chord rock'n'roll, swept away the blood-and-guts comic book imagery in both lyrics and artwork that has always been Iron Maiden's stock-in-trade.

To add to their problems, the band's vocalist, Bruce Dickinson, left in 1993 to concentrate on his solo career and, following the pattern set in recent years by the Stranglers and Marillion, both group and departing singer have since suffered a marked decline in fortunes. Where once Iron Maiden could have sold out Wembley Arena twice over, there were tickets to spare for their one-night stand at Brixton Academy on Friday.

Their confidence seemed undiminished, however, as they assumed the position on a stage overlooked by a giant pictorial backdrop of Eddie, the band's monstrous mascot, being subjected to grotesque facial surgery and a full lobotomy. Guitarist Janick Gers demonstrated an impressive facility for playing while bounding full-tilt across the stage, and together with the slightly less energetic Dave Murray, forged a twin-axe attack redolent of old-timers such as Wishbone Ash.

The new singer, Blaze Bayley, formerly of Wolfsbane, made a spirited attempt to fill his predecessor's shoes, clumping about the stage, hammering his fists against an imaginary door and bellowing his way through various epic tales of man's inhumanity to man with no lack of dramatic intent. But he clearly lacked Dickinson's presence and vocal range, especially on old standbys such as *The Number Of The Beast* and *The Evil That Men Do*.

With Bayley so painfully exposed on the older material, it was not surprising that the bulk of the set was taken up with numbers from the disappointing new album, *The X Factor*. Playing every song as if it were their last, the band waded through the slow starts and galloping climaxes of *Fortunes Of War*, *The Aftermath* and *Sign Of The Cross*, negotiating endless changes of rhythm and tempo.

The 14th Eddie made a lumbering, pantomime horse entrance during *2 Minutes To Midnight*, and later the long-suffering beast was strapped into an electric chair where it twitched along horribly to the band's signature tune, *Iron Maiden*. After nearly two hours of these shenanigans you knew how the wretched creature felt.

DAVID SINCLAIR

THEATRE: Kate Bassett reviews new plays in London and Bristol

Glimpses of hell on earth

THE Nazis depicted Terezin, the ghetto one stop from the gas chamber, as a model Jewish settlement. In *The Strange Passenger* (BAC, Battersea), Sorja Lyndon's play about atrocities and artistic invention, firmly premised by Paines Plough's new director Penny Chiniewicz, we glimpse Jews willingly walking into Terezin believing they were going somewhere heavenly, not to hard labour and starvation.

In 1943, when a request was put in for a Red Cross tour of the place, a "beautification" programme was hastily begun. That same year, the Czech composer and inmate Viktor Ullman completed his opera, *The Emperor of Atlantis*, where Death appears as a welcome sweetness but also carries off the Emperor, a possibly dangerous picture of the Führer.

Lyndon's play concentrates on Ullman's penning of that work, which ended in the transportation to Auschwitz of the Terezin choir and orchestra. This portrait of the composer questions whether his art was escapist and selfish or transcendent and fearless.

While on one hand we see Ullman (Andrew Normington) torn between his work and his disappointed wives, the battle for his soul is fleshed out by Heino and Heinrich (Peter Hamilton and Dyer) playing the Terezin choir and orchestra. Two inmates who share his bunk. Though shifting as symbols, Heino and Heinrich respectively pressure Ullman to be a sharp practical survivor or to fly above it all by composing.

Lyndon ably incorporates the biographical facts and



Tina Jones and Race Davies as Ullman's bitter wives

boldly considers large issues. However, some of her dialogue borders on the sentimental while other speeches reduce drama to debates.

Chiniewicz's direction is proficently assured, with her doubling cast neatly drilled and on-stage cellist playing through scenes. The cast, required to sing from the opera, is working hard. Normington gives a solid performance. Tina Jones and Race Davies acting bittersweet as Ullman's wives and cabaret saboteurs do not truly hurt, but Dyer is admirably flexible, switching from the cockney half-cruel, half-kind Heino to smooth Heinrich.

The problem is that although the Holocaust remains an unendingly tragic subject, we are never quite confronted with real suffering: the dirt, the hunger, the grief.

THE Lone Ranger has ridden into town. He appears to be patrolling an awfully nice Regency Crescent in Bristol, protecting decent folk from the city's yoo-f and their big bad

crime wave. Godfrey (Ross Harvey), the private policing cowboy with the West Country accent, stands guard in his stetson. The wind howls and prairie grass balls go bowling across the Crescent's carefully mown communal gardens.

Catherine Johnson, Bristol Old Vic's playwright-in-residence, obviously has a funny idea about the environs of the Avon. Unless her geography is completely up the creek, this must be a joke on genres.

Renegades, pretty lamely, straddles the gap between a spoof western and a social satire that exposes the degeneracies of Britain's outwardly upright and law-enforcing citizens.

Pippa, wife of the yuppie banker Paul, is having an affair with the schoolteacher next door. Eunice, the grand old lady of the Crescent and organiser of the local Am Dram entertainment, is a covert alcoholic. Indeed, we have a chance to compare directly the chaste behaviour of the well-to-do with that of the aforementioned

yoo-f. Two young scruffs, the pot-smoking law-breaking but basically good-hearted Clover and Shane, are squatting in number 11.

This play, which adds up to little more than a sit-com with some social-conscience risqué swearing, is disappointing after Johnson's award-winning works *Rag Doll*, *Boys Mean Business* and *Dead Sheep*.

One hopes her writing for television soaps is not rubbing off on her style. The dark side of the story, including the sexual blackmail of Clover by Godfrey's brother Vic, is underdeveloped. The tongue-in-cheek portentous speeches on the wickedness of today's world, accompanied by mournful guitar, are amusing, but the drama's escalation into a mighty brawl is a mess.

The set of Andrew Hay's production looks like a rough draft. The cut-out Crescent has one balcony stuck on any-how and the floor of Clover's bedroom juts through the outer wall. The unlikely final bomb hole in number 11 looks more like a map of Ireland. The level of humour is pretty low: big laugh for bared bottoms and mock bonking. Some of the acting is limp. Mary Jo Randle as Pippa and Constance Chapman as Eunice are doing their best with shallow parts, but the strongest performances come from young Simon Bowen, whose Shane is credibly drifting yet manic; Josie Ayers, a slouchy yet determined Clover; and Robert Kendall, who is crankily funny as Vic, guiltingly corruptly at delicate moments and strumming Eunice's strummer like a rock star.



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1. *Sinfonia* 2. *Comfort ye* Recitative - Tenor 3. *Ev'ry valley* Air - Tenor 4. *And the glory of the Lord* Chorus 5. *Thus saith the Lord* Recitative - Bass 6. *But who may abide* Air - Alto 7. *And he shall purify* Chorus 8. *For unto us a child is born* Chorus 9. *Pastoral Symphony* 10. *There were shepherds* Recitative - Soprano 11. *Glory to God* Chorus 12. *Then shall the eyes of the blind* Recitative - Alto 13. *He shall feed his flock* Air - Alto and Soprano 14. *All we like sheep* Chorus 15. *All they that see him* Recitative - Tenor 16. *He trusted in God* Chorus 17. *Why do the nations* Air - Bass 18. *Let us break their bonds* Chorus 19. *He that dwelleth in heaven* Recitative - Tenor 20. *Thou shalt not break them* Air - Tenor 21. *Hallelujah* Chorus 22. *I know that my redeemer liveth* Air - Soprano 23. *Worthy is the lamb* - Amen Chorus

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LAW

● THE REGIONAL BAR IN LEEDS AND LIVERPOOL 41

Discrimination against women and minorities has become a highly charged issue in the profession

Unequal before the law

Frances Gibb reports on new evidence of the barriers facing some would-be lawyers

Discrimination within the legal profession is alive and well. Next week new research will be published which Law Society officials privately admit makes "uncomfortable reading". A survey of several thousand students who are being tracked through their careers in the law will confirm that background and colour still count. Students from ethnic minorities and from the less well-known universities, it shows, still face greater obstacles when entering the law.

The research, by the Policy Studies Institute for the Law Society's research and policy planning unit, produces the hard data to confirm earlier findings that law firms discriminate against black students when offering articles.

The recession has brought an acute shortage of training places. But, according to the study, the struggle for a job is unequal. The chance of entering the legal profession is closely linked to place of education and background. In 1993, white students were found to have a 45 per cent chance of finding a training place in a law firm, while the chances of a black student were 7 per cent. The same disparity will be shown in next week's report.

The findings come when discrimination — and in particular how to tackle it — is a politically loaded issue within the Law Society and the Bar. The Bar has been accused of race discrimination both in the examination system at its law school, which has now been changed, and in the selection of pupils by chambers. After three years of debate, it has produced a pioneering equality code aimed at tackling discrimination — from sexual harassment to unfair allocation of work — at source.

The code was unanimously endorsed by the 90-strong Bar Council but it has stirred controversy within the Inns of Court and some traditional quarters of the Bar. Martin Mears, president of the Law

Society, who drew wide publicity with his attack on the sex discrimination industry last month, condemns it (right). What, though, is the Law Society doing to put its own house in order?

The Society has agreed a package of anti-discrimination measures which came into force this summer. They include a practice rule which outlaws discrimination on grounds of race, sex, disability and sexual orientation, and require firms to have anti-discrimination policies. There is also a revised code of practice to deal with common areas of discrimination and a model anti-discrimination policy which firms are deemed to have adopted if they have none of their own.

Targets are included in this model policy. These are not binding quotas — which would be illegal — but firms are encouraged to apply them as good practice. These targets are: one ethnic minority fee-earner in firms of six to ten fee-earners; 10 per cent of trainees and 5 per cent of other posts in larger firms.

The society expects that large firms will meet their trainee targets this year. Is it enough? Women solicitors feel more could be done. The Young Women Lawyers published a survey this summer of 100 big law firms which found women still struggling to reach top positions. It found that more than 25 per cent of this year's new partners were women but nine years ago, the year of entry for that group, women accounted for 44 per cent. One third of firms had had to deal with an incident of sexual harassment or discrimination in the past year.

The women have already crossed swords with Mr Mears in an exchange of letters. He says he is happy to tackle discrimination "if there is evidence". "You may not like it," he told them, "but I think it is a fact that many women solicitors do, in fact, put their families before their careers. You cannot blame the firms for that." As for sexual harass-



Ever hopeful: female students, at The Times law fair, still face an unequal struggle

THE LAW SOCIETY'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AWARD 1995

RULES OF THE SCHEME

1. The Law Society shall sponsor an award to be known as the Law Society's Equal Opportunities Award 1995.
2. The Award shall go towards the scheme that shall best promote the interests of equal opportunities within the solicitors' profession.
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4. Entrants for the Award can be firms of solicitors, individual solicitors, local law societies, local authorities, Government departments, commercial or other organisations.
5. The Law Society is free to make no award if it is considered that no particular scheme is of sufficient merit.
6. The Law Society can make more than one award but no more than three awards, provided that where more than one award is made, each must fall within a different category of the field of equal opportunities.
7. The decision of the Law Society is final, and no correspondence shall be entered into about the merits of the decision.

ment, he says it would be very odd "if a large firm like Clifford Chance never had even a complaint about harassment". But that was a long way from concluding there was a problem, he says. The Association of Women Solicitors has hit back. Mr Mears's comments are "no answer to the bottleneck" experienced by women with ten to 15 years' experience. In this experience range, 88 per cent of men achieve partnership and 61 per cent of women. Women, they say, will not "politely stand aside". With women now forming half of new entrants to the profession,

the structure of law firms must change, they add. In the meantime, law firms have a chance to show what they are prepared to do on the ground. Today with the sponsorship of *The Times*, the society launches its Equal Opportunities Award scheme for 1995. The award, open to individual lawyers, legal departments or law firms in public or private sectors, seeks to encourage good equal opportunity practice. Details of schemes should be sent by December 22 to Alison Plouviez, The Law Society, 50 Chancery Lane, WC2A 1SX; DX 56 London/Chancery Lane.

Commonwealth meeting in New Zealand and his Minister of Justice had to step in to deliver the opening speech. A small group was invited to the President's home before he left for New Zealand and, in recognition of his "outstanding achievements", presented him with an IBA tie and cufflinks. Mr Mandela was said to be delighted.

Totem polls

THIS year has seen the first contested Law Society presidential elections for 40 years and a spirited three-way contest for the vice-chairmanship of the Bar. Now the Inns of Court, the most traditional institutions of all, appear to be joining in. Gray's Inn has decided to set up a barristers' representative committee and, according to under-treasurer David Machin, elections will take place before the year is out. He says the committee will represent barristers' interests and liaise with staff and students. He puts the move down to "the mounting pressure upon barristers in this day and age".

SCRIVENOR

STEUART & FRANCIS

Spare us from the statistics of zeal

Martin Mears, president of the Law Society, is agnostic about harassment

At the recent Solicitors' annual conference I spoke disobligingly of the discrimination industry. Next year I shall be presenting the Law Society's Equal Opportunities Award. This I am delighted to do, since it is the best way of refuting the charge that any criticism of the discrimination zealots implies antediluvian attitudes.

No reasonable person can doubt the necessity for the original race/gender discrimination legislation. No one, either, can deny that discriminatory practices still exist and that lawyers, in particular, should be committed to eliminating these. But even the best ideas are corrupted and debased when they fall into the hands of the enthusiasts.

A good example is the Bar's new Equality Code. This is an extraordinary document running into 63 pages. In its ultra political correctness, it might easily be the product of some New England campus. It offers rich pickings to any tabloid pursuing a "loony left" hunt. One example of its flavour is the requirement that "invitations to functions addressed to the partners of pupils and barristers should be made in gender neutral terms such as 'partner' rather than 'spouse'". To this is added the caveat that "chamber selection panels are advised not to ask for information on marital status".

Neither should photographs of job applicants be requested. Prohibited questions are "What are your plans for a family?" or "How old are your children?" or even "What does your spouse do?" But it is the Equality Code's treatment of the issue of sexual harassment that makes one wonder whether a learned profession has taken leave of its senses. We are told that "research for the Bar found that over 40 per cent of female junior tenants said they had encountered sexual harassment during their time at the Bar". This is an extraordinary figure. If it were accu-

sive to the recipient whatever the motive or the intention of the perpetrator". That, then, is the paltry evidence for the extraordinary statement that 40 per cent of young female barristers are likely to suffer sexual harassment. It is fortunate that barristers are not usually so credulous in the face of improbable evidence. Elsewhere, the Equality Code betrays the same intellectual flabbiness and prohibits, for example, discrimination on the ground of "sexual orientation... or political persuasion". Well, that all sounds no more than part of the standard liberal package. But what if the "sexual orientation" is that of a paedophile? What if the "political persuasion" involves membership of the National Front?

I hope I will not be thought to be knocking the Bar from any trade union perspective. The Law Society, too, makes it a professional offence to discriminate on grounds of "sexual orientation", though it could never produce any evidence that such discrimination exists. It also shares the Bar's fascination with sexual harassment (albeit not to the extent of advocating "safe havens" for harasses). The Law Society at least has the excuse that earlier this year it had to cope with the well publicised withdrawal of its official candidate from its presidency following harassment accusations.

Does it all matter? Are not these equality codes and anti-discrimination rules no more than sops to the zealots? Should they not be seen as empty posturing comparable with loony left councils declaring themselves nuclear-free zones? I think not. The whole question of equal opportunities, unfair disadvantage and the difficulties suffered by minorities is far too serious to be left to inquisitors who think it discriminatory to write an invitation to "Mr and Mrs Smith".



Mears: still incredulous

Waiting for inspiration

IT IS a common complaint among lawyers that the criminal justice reforms of Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, display a consistent and overwhelming police bias. Lawyers, who are gearing up for a fight over the impending changes to the disclosure rules — to be published this week — not to mention sentencing, will not be surprised to learn that a visitor to Mr Howard's offices found the Police Review displayed prominently in the waiting room but not a legal journal in sight. Copies of *Cab Driver* and *Sea Angler* were less easy to obtain.

Visiting Linklaters & Paines at the moment is more entertaining than usual. The firm is displaying its artistic talent in its reception. Its annual "creativity challenge" for members of the firm and their families attracted 72 entrants. The youngest was Dinah Rodell, the 20-month-old daughter of property

lawyer Anne Barbeary. But don't bother to search for the artistic outpourings of the partners. None of them took up the challenge. The winning entry, a wooden sculpture titled *Eastern Promise*, won Paul Tallon, the partner of a litigation secretary, a weekend break for two.

Written proof

THE Crown Prosecution Service's new booklet *Making Teams Work* has made one of its team see red. J. Kendal Lindley, in its Burnley branch, describes the booklet as "so fatuous as to beggar belief. It is so widely and sloppily written as to be able to encompass within its feeble prose the activities of the United Nations or the darts team at the Pig & Whistle". The CPS's head of training, Phil Spencer, replies: "As a personnel professional, I have given my full support to making teams work." He adds that Mr Lindley "may

wish to consider the impact his public condemnation will have on the many people who worked hard on its production". Meanwhile, the service has come under fire from the plain English campaign for a "core business definition" published in the CPS journal. The campaign describes the definition as a classic example of management-speak. The service defines its core business as "the activities which the CPS must carry out in order to achieve quality performance in the prosecution process, namely the essential activities involved in the process itself and in managing the process and in influencing the criminal justice system to facilitate quality performance in the process".

African links

THE International Bar Association conference in Johannesburg last week suffered a small setback. President Nelson Mandela was at the

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Friday December 15, 1995
City Conference Centre, 76 Mark Lane,
London EC3R 7JN

For registration and further programme details please contact:
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The positions will entail working in a modern office environment in one of the world's most successful and attractive offshore financial centres. A performance related tax free remuneration package is offered with a substantial guaranteed minimum and the potential for earnings in the excess of US\$150,000 per annum.

Interviews will take place in London during January 1996.

Applicants with current C.V. should be sent by telefax with original by airmail to:

The Staff Partner, W.S. Walker & Company.

P.O. Box 265, Caledonian House, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands
Telephone: (809) 949-0100, Fax (809) 949-7886, Internet: walker@candw.ky

W.S. WALKER & COMPANY
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

IN-HOUSE/PRIVATE PRACTICE

CORPORATE FINANCE To £75,000
Premier international firm actively seeking 6-8 year corporate finance lawyer from other leading firms. In particular you should have good stock exchange experience. Firm will reward successful candidate with definite partnership prospects in short-term. Proactive, commercial personality essential. Initial salary package excellent. Ref: T20766

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IN-HOUSE IP To £35,000 Package
London based headquarters of prestigious US corporation seeks top notch candidate with intellectual property experience to take responsibility for UK IP, patents and trademark issues. You will have between 1 and 5 years' experience gained in-house or in private practice. Science background helpful. Robust commercial personality essential. Ref: T24719

IN-HOUSE - M & A £Top + benefits
Excellent in-house package offered by top 10 blue chip FTSE international corporate. 3-5 year corporate finance lawyer sought. Ideally from top City firm, to undertake exceptional mergers/acquisitions work in expanding, proactive legal department. Opportunity exists to undertake more commercial work. Ref: T24669

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Leading merchant bank seeks capital markets lawyer with top academic credentials either UK or US qualified with between 2 and 5 years' relevant experience gained in a City practice or finance house. This individual will undertake a broad-ranging role within the first class banking environment. Ref: T24589

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Outstanding opportunity for 2-5 year qualified lawyer to join household name in the entertainment and communications field. With a strong commercial background ideally with some IPIT experience, you will have the intellectual ability and commercial flair to survive in this upbeat and high profile company. Ref: T24885

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Increase in volume of work for this City practice leads to recruitment of commercial property lawyers at the 2-5 year level. Corporate, financial and institutional clients advised on high profile property transactions. Involvement with such clients actively encouraged leading to your ability to build up your own practice. Ref: T13940

CAPITAL MARKETS To £City Premium
With between 2-4 years' exp of major capital markets work, you are attracted by the prospect of working in a leading US practice in London. Consistent exposure to clients, top quality work and opportunity to be involved in more diverse banking related advice. An exceptional salary package. Ref: T16895

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Non-commercial intellectual property solicitor sought by top City practice to be involved in a broad range of corporate support and IP intensive work. Hard and soft advice given to blue chip and emerging clients. Dedicated and closely linked group provides excellent possibilities for ambitious lawyers to make partnership. Ref: T24532

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahams, Stephen Rodway or William Cook (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-266 5801 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax 0171-631 6394. Email greg@quarrydouglall.com



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IN-HOUSE FINANCE £PARTNER
Dynamic and entrepreneurial international firm currently engaged in high profile telecom transactions in Europe, Asia and Argentina has urgent need for additional in-house finance lawyer to join as partner level. No requirements for a following. Top Right positions may be considered on the basis of immediate partnership. Outstanding quality work in high-profile areas of the practice. (Ref: T2499)

IN-HOUSE FINANCE £COMPETITIVE
Top tier City firm with growing international practice seeks solicitors with up to 5 years' exp to join the fast expanding and successful capital markets and structured finance team. Opportunity to make real impact in a growing group with a small number of mid-ranking solicitors. Frictionless responsibility for bond issues, international equity offerings, securitizations, swaps and other derivatives. Candidates must have relevant experience and have an enthusiastic, client led attitude to work. Flexible and extremely open, friendly work environment. (Ref: T2254)

IN-HOUSE BANKING £BANKING PACKAGE
An exceptional opportunity exists at this leading international finance house for a highly motivated banking and capital markets lawyer. Applications are sought from candidates with between 1 and 4 years' exp. Ideally gained at one of the major City firms. The department undertakes a broad range of structured finance, capital markets, derivatives and corporate finance work and seeks to offer its lawyers a broad ranging caseload. First rate salary and benefits package. (Ref: T2581)

LITIGATION £150-200,000
Prestigious East Coast US firm with mature London office seeks top quality UK litigation partner (ideally aged 23-45) for role which will involve handling excellent quality cross border disputes generated through the firm's existing UK clients and extensive foreign office network. Candidates seeking a fresh challenge and multi-cultural team likely to be most appropriate. National approach to equity participation and realistic expectations on following. (Ref: T2523)

IN-HOUSE BANKING To £55,000
Leading international law firm seeks specialist project/structured finance specialist. Ideal level is 3-5 years' exp and a training at one of the City's top firms is preferable. The firm has an enviable client base and much of its work is in structured finance. Excellent long term prospects for the right candidate in an environment which is less structured than many of its competitors. First rate remuneration package. (Ref: T2585)

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For further information in complete confidence on these and the many other vacancies currently registered with us, please contact: Sally Harvey, Lisa Hicks or Miranda Smyth (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-377 0510 (0171-733 1815 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 San Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail sally@zmb.co.uk

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WRITTEN APPLICATIONS, WITH CURRICULUM VITAE, SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN CONFIDENCE TO THE ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER, APPLEBY, SPURLING & KEMPE, PO Box HM 1179, HAMILTON HM EX, BERMUDA. TEL: (441) 295 2244. FAX: (441) 292 8666 OR (441) 295 5328.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 28TH NOVEMBER 1995.

LITIGATION
ATTORNEY
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INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD IN LONDON IN DECEMBER 1995.

WRITTEN APPLICATIONS, WITH CURRICULUM VITAE, SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN CONFIDENCE TO THE ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER, APPLEBY, SPURLING & KEMPE, P O Box HM 1179, HAMILTON HM EX, BERMUDA. TEL: (441) 295 2244. FAX: (441) 292 8666 OR (441) 295 5328.

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CHAMBERS

Information Officers

The role of Information Officers has changed considerably during the past ten years. During the Eighties, they became more than just clerical assistants and reviewers of the latest cases; they became involved in the training of articled clerks and the continuing education of two-seniors. In the Nineties, they have taken on the role in many firms - large and medium-sized - of writing and publishing newsletters for internal and external circulation. They have begun to overlap with the marketing function, producing brochures, and with the personnel department in assisting with graduate recruitment. These developments reflect the changes in law firms' marketing activities; they have also arisen from the widespread adoption of computerised desktop publishing. All in all, the job of an Information Officer today is much more interesting.

We have been notified recently of a range of Information Officer positions in firms in London and the regions. In all cases, the sort of people needed for these posts are good technical lawyers who also understand the relevance of legal developments to the practical needs of practitioners. If they can write well, so much the better, and if they have an understanding of marketing, they are ideal.

Some of the vacancies are part-time, three or four days a week. Some of them would suit women returning to work after having children. The kind of salaries being offered vary considerably. There are firms which pay their Information Officers more or less the same as the equivalent secretarial staff. More usually, however, the pay is slightly less.

If you would be interested in more information about any of these positions, please send us your CVs.

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS
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INDUSTRY & BANKING Sonya Rayner

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Legal Adviser: London
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Leisure Company: South East
Solicitor with c 5 years' exp to join high profile leisure group based in the South East. Work will be predominantly international. Must enjoy travel.

PRACTICE London: David Jermyn, David Woolfson, Melanie Mitchell-Baker
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Banking Litigation: City
Niche firm with strong banking reputation seeks 2-3 year qualified to handle broad range of litigation for banks.

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Commercial Property NG: City
Medium-sized City firm seeks recently qual sol to work in a close knit and highly successful team on behalf of developer and institutional clients.

Pensions: City
Leading medium-sized firm with an exceptional corporate client base seeks 1-3 yr qual pensions sol to join this flourishing and expanding practice area.

Corporate Lawyers: London
Solicitor or barrister with c 5 years' corporate experience to join legal dept of well known PLC. Senior position requiring M&A, JVs and investment business experience on an international scale. Some travel.

Corporate Lawyers: City
Excellent opportunity for sol with 5 yrs' exp to join City finance group as sole lawyer. Work will include managing legal services, reviewing contracts & other relevant documentation, co sec & compliance duties.

Bankings: South East
Solicitor or barrister with c 5 yrs' exp to join legal dept of bank. Work includes advising on compliance issues, marketing, consumer credit, banking and company law. Previous banking experience useful.

Fluent French Speaker: C. London
Thriving niche practice acting for leading co's in fashion, luxury goods, champagne sectors seeks 0-1 year qualified sol for broad co/comm work.

Company/Comm Partners: West End
Upmarket niche firm with strong, profitable Middle and Far Eastern connections seeks senior solicitor with past following to head department.

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Dynamic 1 year qualified solicitor for high quality corp, commercial & IT work with leading firm.

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This assignment is being handled exclusively by Gill Newman BA (Hons). Contact her on 0171 405 4161 (fax 0171 242 1261). Alternatively, write to her at Reuter Simkin, Legal Recruitment Consultants, 5 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, London EC4A 1DY. E-Mail 100621.2024@compuserve.comm.

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We wish to recruit an additional solicitor with impeccable qualifications to assist our multinational clients continued expansion in the Cayman Islands

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The starting salary will be in the region of US\$150,000. There is no personal taxation in the Cayman Islands.

Applications with a CV should be addressed to Corporate Lawyer: SP, Maples & Calder, P.O. Box 309, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, British West Indies.

Telephone: 001 (809) 949 8066
Facsimile: 001 (809) 949 8080

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We wish to recruit an additional solicitor or barrister with impeccable qualifications and specific experience in relation to trust law to assist our expansion both in the Cayman Islands and in Hong Kong.

The ideal applicant will have a first class academic background, three to five years post qualification experience in the private client department of a major City firm or Chancery Chambers, and will look forward to joining a highly motivated team advising either the settlor or major international trust corporations in relation to a wide range of trust and private client matters involving tax and estate planning, asset protection and conflicts of law issues. The financial rewards and career prospects are excellent and the Cayman Islands provide a very attractive environment.

The salary will be in the region of US\$150,000. There is no personal taxation in the Cayman Islands.

Applications with a CV should be addressed to Trust Lawyer: SP, Maples & Calder, P.O. Box 309, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, British West Indies.

Telephone: 001 (809) 949 8066
Facsimile: 001 (809) 949 8080

James Allen QC on the rise of Leeds over the past 20 years; and Robert Moss on excellence in Liverpool

Northern success story

Leeds is now one of the most dynamic cities in the United Kingdom. It has the largest concentration of financial and business services in Britain outside London and continuing growth is predicted. It is the financial capital of the North and of greater importance than Manchester.

As well as being the second commercial city of the country, Leeds is the second legal centre. It has some of the largest law firms, including Dibb Lupton Broomhead, Eversheds Hepworth & Chadwick, Hammond Suddards, Walker Morris, Booth & Co, Pinsent Curtis and Ford & Warren. As Leeds has expanded, so have these firms, serving the needs of commercial organisations. The same is true of the Leeds Bar.

Twenty years ago, the Leeds Bar totalled 90 barristers. Counsel practising from chambers in the city were predominantly criminal practitioners, with a handful practising in personal injury and common law contract.

Before 1972, Leeds did not have Chancery jurisdiction. But, as a result of the Courts Act 1971, the County Palatine Court of Lancaster was merged with the High Court. The Vice-Chancellor of the County Palatine Court — now Mr Justice Parker — became a circuit judge, taking precedence after High Court judges.

Leeds then slowly developed as a Chancery centre. Until 1982, Judge Blackett-Ord sat in Court No 2 in the County Court building at Albion Place, and within a short time the court became a commercial court with a strong emphasis on corporate insolvency.

The judge was committed to the idea of decentralising the administration of justice in general, and of the Chancery Division in particular. He worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to promote the Northern Chancery Court, with the result that by 1982 two extra

permanent Chancery judges had been appointed to deal with the number of cases handled by the district registries.

In the same year, the Leeds Combined Court Centre opened, and the Chancery Court was rehoused. Between 1975 and 1982, the Leeds Chancery Commercial Bar expanded to meet the needs of the city's commercial and financial services communities. By 1982 the numbers of Chancery commercial practitioners had doubled.

The success of the Northern Chancery Court, and the increasing specialisation of local Bars, meant that local solicitors were making more use of regional Chancery commercial counsel. As a result of the success of the Northern Chancery Court, Chancery jurisdiction was extended to Birmingham, Bristol and Cardiff, which started to hear Chancery work in 1982.



Mr Justice Parker

The Northern Chancery Court is now manned by a High Court judge and three circuit judges exercising High Court jurisdiction. There are now seven district judges who sit at the Leeds Combined Court Centre.

The story of the local Chancery Commercial Bars is also a success. There are now more than 100 Chancery commercial counsel



Leeds Crown Court: the city has grown to become the UK's second largest legal centre

practising within the Northern Chancery area. They daily provide the skills required by the demanding workloads of the five district registries in the area.

The Leeds Chancery Commercial Bar has grown substantially. Its members specialise in banking and securities, intellectual property, trusts, probate, company law, insolvency (corporate and individual), insurance, partnership, landlord and tenant, real property, inheritance and agricultural holdings.

This growth has also led to increasing specialisation at the common law Bar in the city. There are specialist commercial counsel in sale of goods, consumer credit, hire purchase, insurance, banking, trade and labour, construction law and professional negligence.

It has meant greater demands being made upon the Chancery judges who sit in Leeds, and the Queen's Bench Division judges when on circuit. At times, the Queen's Bench Division has been unable to provide the services its judges would have wished. This is partly because of the volume of criminal cases which need a High Court hearing.

The next key development came in 1990, when a committee was set up to work towards establishing a Commercial Court of the Queen's

Bench Division sitting in Leeds. Now two Mercantile Courts on the North Eastern Circuit are planned, one at Leeds and the other at Newcastle, each manned by its own mercantile judge.

Mr Justice Parker strongly supports establishing two mercantile courts. He favours close links between the Northern Chancery Court and the mercantile courts, with the aim of increasing the volume and quality of commercial work in the North. He argues that there is such an overlap between Chancery and general commercial work that there is no good reason to distinguish between the two.

Leeds has come a long way since it became a city just over 100 years

ago. So has the Leeds Bar, but in a shorter time. Over 20 years, it has developed and adapted so that now there are more than 300 at the Bar, of which a substantial number practise in the Chancery commercial and common-law commercial fields. It is a specialist regional Bar which, despite recent criticisms, provides commercial solicitors and lay clients with a service second to none and its members are justifiably proud of its achievement.

But Leeds barristers are not complacent. To maintain the excellent level of service that they provide to the commercial community, they know they must adapt to its changing needs. Given the opportunity, they will do so.

THE LOCATION OF THE BARRISTERS

THERE are 8,498 barristers in private practice in England and Wales. Roughly two-thirds (5,621) are in London, and the remaining 2,877 are in the regions. The biggest groups are in Manchester, Birmingham and Leeds, but there are smaller clusters — from Luton to Lewes, Truro to Pinner. Sometimes local Bars consist

of just one set, such as Tindal Chambers at Chelmsford, Enfield Chambers in Middlesex, and East Anglian Chambers in Ipswich. Sometimes an individual barrister can be practising from home.

The biggest Bars are: Manchester (541), Birmingham (409), Leeds (321), Liverpool (276) and Bristol (235).

Liverpool's three 'R's

A survey earlier this year on the Bar in the regions by *Legal Business* magazine found that "only the Liverpool Bar enjoyed a favourable reception from solicitors" for commercial work. The survey was denounced by some of the regional Bar. But is Liverpool commercially different? And is the same true about Liverpool common law chambers?

The recession, which has hit Liverpool more than most cities, has produced the right environment within the legal profession. There is a hunger to succeed and an atmosphere receptive to change.

But to excel needs an understanding of the market. I have heard the Bar described as "the ultimate third-party contractor". True or not, the Bar must be in step with the service now being provided by the "main contractor", the solicitor.

The pressures on solicitors to deliver a good service quickly have never been greater: witness the public's changing attitudes, as reflected in complaints to the Solicitors Complaints Bureau — now running at nearly 20,000 inquiries a year. Many relate to delay and poor communication.

At our chambers we encourage solicitors to mark instructions with realistic deadlines, allowing counsel to plan their workload and for changes of counsel to be made at an early stage. Specialisation is essential. My own chambers of 29 is divided into civil, family and crime. Each has its brochure, and barristers who specialise in fields such as medical negligence, child care, fraud.

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I adopted some time ago the three "R's": the Right matter at the Right time. Getting the right fee is achieved by starting with a calculation of hourly/daily rates and the time involved, followed by factors such as the importance of the matter to the client. We are often asked to quote fees without sight of the instructions, which is like asking a builder to quote for construction of a house without seeing the plans.

In the past decade, most walks of life have faced enormous change, from miners to multimillionaires. The legal profession is not immune.

It remains to be seen just



Robert Moss

how level the new playing field will be. Many chambers will doubtless relate to our aims and practices. For our part, it is the combination of them all with the right approach which is the key to our future.

● The author, a former practising solicitor, is Senior Clerk/Practice Manager at the Liverpool common law set of chambers of David M. Harris, QC.

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Big guns fire
San Francisco
season
as Rice

RESULTS AND

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Big guns fire blanks for Cowboys

San Francisco's season revived as Rice runs free

By STUART JONES

ONE American football reputation was restored and another dismantled with astonishing rapidity in Texas stadium on Sunday night. The role reversal of the San Francisco 49ers, the champions who were down if not out of contention, and the Dallas Cowboys, the favourites to succeed them, was completed within five minutes.

The Cowboys rely heavily on the trio of weapons known as "the triplets". Emmitt Smith is, as usual, the league's leading rusher. Michael Irvin is among the prime receivers and Troy Aikman, in guiding the team to eight wins in nine games, was regarded as the prominent quarterback.

The 49ers were without their leader, the injured Steve Young, and their ranks were so depleted that their full back played with a broken thumb encased in plaster. They were expected to suffer a third successive defeat, a fate which had not befallen them since 1980.

In view of their remaining schedule, even Young agreed that an air of desperation had enfolded the 49ers. "There are no home games and no away

games left any more," he said before the kick-off. "They are all back-alley fights." With a sharp edge, too.

In January, the Cowboys, aiming for a third consecutive Superbowl victory, had submitted in the National Football Conference championship game in San Francisco. The defeat had rankled ever since. "We have to send them a statement that we are still the top dogs," Charles Haley, a defensive end, warned.

The words, though, were empty. On the second play, Jerry Rice caught an eighty-yard pass and ran for another 73 yards to put the 49ers 7-0 ahead. On the Cowboys' first play, Aikman hurt his left knee. On their second, Irvin fumbled and, within 90 seconds, the deficit was 0-14.

On their fifth play, an Aikman pass was intercepted. On their eleventh, he was sacked and bruised his knee on the artificial turf so severely that he was unable to resume. By the interval, the 49ers, under Elvis Grbac, had built an unassailable advantage of 31-7.

The league's most powerful defence had put Aikman in the

locker room and had restricted Smith to a mere 13 yards on the ground and Irvin to nine yards in the air. As in January, they had forced the Cowboys to yield possession at least twice in the opening quarter.

Wade Wilson, the understudy for Aikman, was allowed to reduce the eventual margin to 38-20 and Irvin set a club record when he caught the final touchdown pass. He has accumulated seven more yards than Tony Hill's total of 7,988, but there was no celebration.

He was aware by then that he would be denied a more historic achievement. In each of the previous seven games, he had gained at least 100 yards to equal a league record that had stood for 34 years and was owned jointly by two Houston Oilers receivers.

The Cowboys did, however, maintain a curious sequence. In each of the past nine seasons, they have lost their tenth game.

As in the past three years, it should not prevent them from reaching the play-offs, but their next two fixtures are not designed to repair punctured morale.

They are at the Oakland Raiders, who have also lost twice, and at home to the Kansas City Chiefs, who have lost only once. The 49ers have climbed back to the top of their division, level with the Atlanta Falcons and the St Louis Rams.

At San Diego, Steve Bono, the quarterback, and Marcus Allen scored on short touchdown runs and Lin Elliott kicked three field goals to bring the Chiefs their sixth straight win. Kansas City held San Diego to 70 rushing yards as the Chiefs continued their best start since 1969. The six-game winning streak is also Kansas City's longest since 1969.



Bruno said yesterday that he had no intention of surrendering his world title to Tyson in Las Vegas next March

Bruno confident of beating Tyson

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

FRANK BRUNO wants the world to know that his decision to defend the World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight title against Mike Tyson instead of Lennox Lewis is not longer influenced by political and financial considerations but by a desire to prove himself the best.

Bruno said yesterday on his return from Thailand, where he won the backing of the WBC for his bout with Tyson in Las Vegas on March 16, that he would beat Tyson. The champion said that he had the hardest punch in the world and was capable of knocking him out.

"I'm not fighting Tom, Dick

or Harry. I'm fighting the *crème de la crème* — Mike Tyson, the No 1 in the world. In 1996, a British heavyweight will knock out Mike Tyson. When I beat Tyson it won't be the end of the road."

Bruno said he did not believe reports that Tyson was no longer the fighter he used to be. "I've conditioned myself to thinking that Tyson is not what everybody thinks he is," Bruno said. "I am focused on the good Tyson. When I get into the ring, if it is the bad Tyson, that is entirely up to him. But, in my mind, it's the Tyson who is hungry."

"I'm not going into the ring showing Mike Tyson my belt and giving it to him. I'm not giving him nothing. I've got a little bit of pride and dignity

and I want to keep the British flag very high and very proud."

"I'm a much better fighter now. I have put on a stone and a half so I feel very strong. Being with Frank Warren [his promoter] has given me extra confidence. "Years ago, people said I should retire. I promise you, I'm not going to embarrass myself. I am relishing being the WBC champion."

Certainly, Bruno has more than an outside chance of defeating Tyson, who has yet to regain his touch. If successful, he could become the first British heavyweight this century to be the undisputed world champion. He would have no trouble beating Bruce Seldon, the WBA champion, and Axel Schulz or Frans

Botha, who are contesting the IBF title next month.

Bruno starts training today and is likely to go to the United States to put the finishing touches to his preparations at altitude.

Lewis is still contesting the WBC decision to give Tyson preference over him as first challenger for Bruno's title. But Warren warned yesterday that he would take Lewis to court if he persisted.

"If Lewis goes on the way he is, he is going to get a writ served on him," Warren said. The reason we'll be suing is for interfering with our contract, with arrangements. The fight has been sanctioned. He will find himself on the other side of a serious law suit that will cost him a lot of money."

RESULTS AND TABLES

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						Central division							
East division						West division							
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		
Buffalo	7	3	0	70.0	195	172	Chicago	6	4	0	60.0	280	245
Miami	6	4	0	60.0	255	181	Green Bay	6	4	0	60.0	246	216
Indianapolis	5	5	0	50.0	186	230	Kansas City	5	5	0	50.0	219	226
New England	4	6	0	40.0	167	216	Tampa Bay	5	5	0	50.0	158	175
NY Jets	2	8	0	20.0	137	257	Dallas	4	6	0	40.0	236	247
West division						West division							
Pittsburgh	4	5	0	44.4	208	208	Atlanta	6	4	0	60.0	210	220
Cleveland	4	5	0	44.4	178	193	San Diego	6	4	0	60.0	195	205
Cincinnati	4	6	0	40.0	222	209	San Francisco	6	4	0	60.0	250	140
Houston	4	6	0	40.0	218	209	Cardinals	5	5	0	50.0	179	206
Jacksonville	3	7	0	30.0	168	233	New Orleans	4	6	0	40.0	181	209
(not including Cleveland at Pittsburgh last night)													
RESULTS: Week 17 Indianapolis 17, Kansas City 14; Oakland 17, New York Giants 13; Buffalo 23, Atlanta 17, New England 34; Pittsburgh 20, Houston 20; Carolina 22, Seattle 49; Jacksonville 30, St. Louis 28; Carolina 17, Detroit 27, Tampa Bay 24; Dallas 27, San Diego 20, New Orleans 22; San Diego 7, San Francisco 38; Dallas 20; Minnesota 30, Arizona 24 (OT); Philadelphia 27, New York Jets 20.													
NATIONAL CONFERENCE													
East division						West division							
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA		
Dallas	8	2	0	80.0	286	181	San Diego	8	2	0	80.0	245	148
Philadelphia	7	4	0	60.0	207	223	Oakland	8	2	0	80.0	250	153
Arizona	6	4	0	60.0	204	262	Denver	7	3	0	70.0	241	174
NY Giants	5	5	0	50.0	191	216	San Diego	6	4	0	60.0	169	206
Washington	3	7	0	30.0	207	241	Seattle	4	6	0	40.0	222	253

RESULTS: New Orleans 17, Indianapolis 14; Oakland 17, New York Giants 13; Buffalo 23, Atlanta 17; New England 34, Green Bay 38; Chicago 28, Kansas City 22; Seattle 47, Jacksonville 30; St Louis 28, Carolina 17; Detroit 27, Tampa Bay 24; Denver 30, Chicago 28; Kansas City 22, San Diego 7; San Francisco 38, Dallas 20; Minnesota 30, Arizona 24 (OT); Philadelphia 31, Denver 13.

Court of Appeal

Landlord's right to recovery

Jervis v Harris
Before Sir Stephen Brown, President, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Otton

[Judgment November 9]
A landlord did not need to obtain the leave of the court under section 1 of the Leasehold Property (Repairs) Act 1938 to claim reimbursement from a tenant for the cost of repairs carried out by him but which were the obligation of the tenant under the lease, since the claim was one for a debt and not for damages.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by the tenant, Shammi Harris against the decision of Mr Justice Morris, sitting as Vice-Chancellor of the County Palatine of Lancaster on May 10, 1994, when he held that the right of the landlord, John Jervis, to effect the demised property, effect repairs and claim to recover the costs from the tenant was not a claim for damages for breach of covenant.

Clause 2 of the underlease in question provided: "(7) ... the lessee will ... maintain, repair, and keep in good tenable repair and condition ..."

Section 1 of the 1938 Act, as amended by section 51 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954, provides: "(1) Where a lease serves on a lessee ... a notice that relates to a breach of covenant or agreement to keep or put in repair ... any of the property comprised in the lease ..."

"(3) ... no proceedings ... shall be taken by the lessor ... for damages for breach thereof, otherwise than with the leave of the court."

Mr Kim Lewison, QC and Mr David Berkley for the tenant; Mr Anthony Ellery, QC and Mr Ian Foster for the landlord.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that two of the issues in the case were of general importance in the law of landlord and tenant. In the action the landlord sought to enforce certain covenants in an underlease.

Clause 2(1) of the underlease authorised the landlord to enter the demised premises to view the state of repair and give notice in writing to the tenant of any defects or want of repair.

The tenant was required, within three months, to make good all defects or want of repair of which notice had been given, and in default the landlord could do the work himself and recover costs and expenses of the work from the tenant on demand.

The landlord had caused the premises to be inspected and found that the tenant was in breach of the obligation to enter and do the work himself and recover the cost from the tenant.

The tenant refused the landlord or his workmen entry and the landlord brought the present proceedings seeking, inter alia, an injunction to restrain the tenant from preventing him from entering the premises and carrying out repairs.

The question was whether the landlord's right to enter the prop-

erty, effect the repairs himself and claim to recover the cost of doing so from the tenant was a claim for damages for breach of covenant by the tenant to keep or put in repair during the currency of the lease all or any of the property comprised in the lease.

The question had been considered at first instance on a number of occasions. In *Swallow Securities v Brand* [1981] 45 P & C R 328, Mr Justice McNellie had answered the question in the affirmative.

But in *Hamilton v Martell Securities* [1984] Ch 266 Mr Justice Vinelott had reached a different conclusion, since followed by Mr Justice Nourse in *Colchester Estates v Carlton Investments* [1986] Ch 60 and by Judge Paul Baker in *Leeds Investments Ltd v Bainbridge* [1986] 2 EG 43.

In the latter two cases, the judges followed the decision of Mr Justice Vinelott on the ground that, where the later of two conflicting decisions had been reached after a full consideration of the earlier it should normally be followed without further inquiry.

Mr Justice Morris had taken the same course in the present case. This was therefore the first occasion on which the question had been raised before the Court of Appeal.

The short answer to the question was that the tenant's liability to reimburse the landlord for his expenditure on repairs was not a liability in damages for breach of his repairing covenant at all.

The landlord's claim was in debt and not damages. It was not a claim for compensation for breach of the tenant's covenant to repair the property.

But if he chose instead to effect the repairs himself, there was nothing in the section which required him to obtain the leave of the court before doing so.

That also disposed of the second matter of general importance of the case as to whether the money due by way of reimbursement was irrecoverable as a penalty.

Clause 2(1) was not a penalty clause because it provided for the payment of a sum of money upon the happening of a specified event other than a breach of a contractual duty owed by the party liable to make the payment to the party entitled to receive it.

It was well settled that the event on which the sum alleged to be a penalty became payable had to be a breach of some other contractual obligation owed by the obligor to the obligee. That was not the case here.

Accordingly, his Lordship would overrule *Swallow Securities Ltd v Brand* and dismiss the appeal.

The President and Lord Justice Otton agreed.

Solicitors: Liffman Rose & Co, Manchester; James Singleton & Co, Worsley.

Law Report November 14 1995

Social worker can make disclosure

In re G (Minor) (Social worker: Disclosure)

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Roger Parker [Judgment October 25]

A social worker did not need leave of the court pursuant to rule 4.23 of the Family Proceedings Rules (SI 1991 No 1247 (L20)) in order to disclose to the police oral statements made by parents in relation to unexplained injuries sustained by their child.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority. Lord Justice Auld dissenting, when allowing an appeal by the local authority from a decision of Judge Elystan Morgan at Warrington County Court that rule of court to the contrary, no disclosure of all documents emanating from or information given to the guardian would be subject to the leave of the court.

The guardian had no function outside the proceedings to which he had been appointed. When those proceedings were completed his function was ended. It might be that disclosure of all documents emanating from or information given to the guardian would be subject to the leave of the court.

Her Ladyship would not wish to express a view, in the absence of argument, as to the scope of the guardian's duty to the court and whether it excluded the duty to inform the police of admissions of criminal offences without obtaining leave of the court.

A social worker's duties towards children in his area were far wider and were by no means confined to court proceedings. In many cases the children with whom he was concerned might never appear before a court. Some documents created by the social services department would be covered by rule 4.23 of the 1991 Rules but many would not.

The problem raised by the instant appeal would occur if an oral statement was made to a

guardian ad litem had informed a social worker who had in turn passed on the information to the police that a mother had confessed to injuring her child. Mr Justice Ward had dismissed the guardian and held that the matter of confidentiality was a matter for the court.

In so far as Mr Justice Ward and Mrs Justice Hale in *Cleveland County Council v F* [1995] 1 WLR 783 appeared to equate the position of the social worker with that of the guardian her Ladyship did not agree with them.

The guardian had no function outside the proceedings to which he had been appointed. When those proceedings were completed his function was ended. It might be that disclosure of all documents emanating from or information given to the guardian would be subject to the leave of the court.

Her Ladyship would not wish to express a view, in the absence of argument, as to the scope of the guardian's duty to the court and whether it excluded the duty to inform the police of admissions of criminal offences without obtaining leave of the court.

A social worker's duties towards children in his area were far wider and were by no means confined to court proceedings. In many cases the children with whom he was concerned might never appear before a court. Some documents created by the social services department would be covered by rule 4.23 of the 1991 Rules but many would not.

The problem raised by the instant appeal would occur if an oral statement was made to a

social worker for the purpose of care proceedings. A written statement by a parent, for instance, made for the purpose of proceedings, whether handed to the social worker, guardian or to the court direct, would be covered by rule 4.23.

Oral admissions made to a social worker which recorded in writing and placed in the social work file did not at that stage come within the ambit of rule 4.23.

There was a rather fine distinction between information in oral form provided to the social worker not being within the rule whereas substantially the same information reduced to writing by the social worker and filed with the court was within the rule.

A distinction frequently had to be made between documents created for court proceedings and those which came into existence in the normal course of a social worker's duties and it might be difficult to be sure on occasions which were which.

Her Ladyship would give a restrictive interpretation to rule 4.23 and limit it to documents held by the court in the court file. She doubted that it extended to documents created for the purpose of the proceedings and intended to be filed with the court since they were not in fact to become part of the court file.

It was important that the rule should not be widely and loosely interpreted so as to bring within its ambit information at a stage when it was not intended to be covered and which would be contrary to the best interests of the child.

The different positions of social worker and guardian might create a certain anomaly in that the same statement made by either parent in respect of "document" and only in respect of confidentiality but that might be a necessary consequence of their different statutory roles.

Rule 4.23 did not extend to oral statements made by a parent to a social worker.

LORD JUSTICE AULD, dissenting, said that he would uphold the judge's ruling that any statement made by either parent in and for the purpose of the care proceedings could not be disclosed to the police without leave of the court.

SIR ROGER PARKER, agreeing with Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, said that the wording of rule 4.23 appeared to be plain. Leave to disclose was only required in respect of "document" and only in respect of documents "held by the court". The rule thus followed established wardship practice.

There was neither need nor justification for extending the scope of the clear words so as to require leave for the disclosure of information, imparted to a social worker and recorded in case notes or a report which for one reason or another had never reached the court.

To do so would not be construction of the rule but a complete re-writing of the rule and that legislation which was neither the function nor within the powers of the court.

Solicitors: Mr Mike Flynn, Chester; Michael Seward & Co, Warrington; Rowlands, Stockport; Mr Graham D. Gordon, Chester.

Original reading valid after mistake discovered

Hague v Director of Public Prosecutions

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Scott Baker [Judgment November 6]

Where an Intoximeter reading was mistakenly thought to be inaccurate, it could still be produced in evidence after the mistake had been discovered, even though alternative blood alcohol test procedures had been initiated.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing the appeal by case stated of David Hague against his conviction by Sheffield Magistrates Court for driving while over the prescribed alcohol limit contrary to section 51(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Two positive samples of breath, the lower showing an alcohol level of not less than 68mg per 100ml of breath, were taken from the appellant at a police station but the officer in charge of the machine believed that it had failed to

calibrate properly and required the appellant to give a sample of blood. He refused to do so.

It was then discovered that the Intoximeter had been working and had given an accurate reading. The magistrate found that the breath test result could be admitted in evidence and therefore found the appellant guilty.

Mr Christopher Spratt for the appellant; Mr Andrew Hatton for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER said that it was agreed that there had been nothing wrong with the machine.

The authorities showed that the test was not absolute as to whether the Intoximeter was reliable. It was dependent upon whether the officer reasonably believed it was not.

The court had proceeded on the basis that the officer's belief was a reasonable one.

RTR 222 the accused had provided specimens where the lower was under 50mg per 100ml of breath but there was no doctor available to take a blood sample and the accused was unable to provide urine and it was held that the original breath specimen was admissible.

In his Lordship's judgment it would be surprising if the opposite result to that in *Winstanley* pertained in the present case. That cannot have been the intention of the legislation.

A breath sample remained potentially admissible unless and until replaced by an admissible blood or urine sample.

The appellant was substantially above the breath alcohol limit on a machine now found to be in satisfactory working order.

Lord Justice Simon Brown gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Mundy Coutts-Wood, Sheffield; Crown Prosecution Service, Sheffield.

Entitlement to attendance allowance

Chief Adjudication Officer v Kenyon and Others

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Saville [Judgment October 17]

The fact that a local authority could have made arrangements for the provision of the cost of accommodation for persons suffering from illness but had not in fact done so did not disqualify those persons from receiving attendance allowance pursuant to regulation 4(1)(c) of the Social Security (Attendance Allowance) (No 2) Regulations (SI 1975 No 598), as substituted by regulation 2(3) of the Social Security (Attendance Allowance) Amendment (No 3) Regulation (SI 1983 No 174).

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the Chief Adjudication Officer against a decision of a social security commissioner that Elsie Kenyon and five other claimants were entitled to attendance allowance.

Regulation 4 provides: "(1) Except in the cases specified ... attendance allowance shall not be payable in respect of a person who

has attained the age of 16 for any period during which that person is living in accommodation ..."

(a) provided for him in pursuance of various provisions; (b) provided for him in circumstances in which the cost of accommodation is being borne wholly or partly out of public or local funds ... (c) provided for him in circumstances in which the cost of accommodation may be borne wholly or partly out of public or local funds ..."

Mr Richard McManus for the appellant; Mrs Nathalie Lieven for the claimants.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that it was common ground that:

1 The claimant's local social services authority had the secretary of state's advance approval for the making of arrangements for the provision of residential accommodation for the care of persons, like the claimant, suffering from illness.

2 Had such arrangements been made, the local authority would have borne all or part of the cost.

3 The health authority's hostel accommodation was not in fact

provided for the claimant under any such arrangements.

The appellants' argument was that it mattered not that the accommodation was not provided under any arrangement made by the local authority; it could be and it were then it could be wholly or partly paid for out of local funds and that raised the prohibition.

The 1975 Regulations had been repealed and replaced and since April 1992 attendance allowance had been replaced by disability living allowance. The regulations governing that, however, were in essentially identical terms to those with which the instant appeal was concerned so the decision would be of continuing relevance.

The critical question was whether arrangements for the claimant's accommodation had to be made before the prohibition arose under regulation 4(1)(c).

Regulation 4(1)(a) was to be regarded as confined to cases of direct public authority provision of residential accommodation. Regulation 4(1)(b) and (c), however, applied where the local authority either paid or had the power to pay some or all of the cost of the

accommodation provided by a third party.

An essential function of regulation

Nigerian sport caught in the middle

Black: Garry Kasparov
White: Anatol grand prix
 Paris, November 1995

Sicilian Defence

1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	d6
3 d4	cxd4
4 Nxd4	Nf6
5 Nc3	Nc6
6 Bg5	Bc7
7 Qd2	e6
8 Q-O-O	O-O
9 f4	Re6
10 h4	Nc4
11 Qxd4	hxg5
12 hxg5	Ng4

All games of the world title match are now available with commentary by Raymond Keene in a *Times* book, *World Chess Championship: Kasparov v Anand* (Bansford £9.99). Credit card orders on 01376 327901 (please quote 5/655).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the *Weekend* section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Tarrasch - Von Gottschall, Dresden, 1892. The danger sign for Black in this position is that his king is completely boxed in and has no flight squares. How did White now continue?

Solution on page 46

Maturing Cork can become the real thing

Five months ago, Dominic Cork was still waiting for his Test cricket career to begin. Today, he is the one automatic selection in the England bowling attack for the series with South Africa that gets underway at Centurion Park, Johannesburg, on Thursday.

It is a sudden and heavy responsibility, yet all the indications are that Cork is one of those rare men who matures through being stretched. This is dangerous talk, of course. Meteors have flashed into the England team, and out again, too often for glub confidence that Cork is the real thing after one golden summer. He has endorsements on his record, too, both through injuries and a suspect temperament. The sceptics are waiting, even now, to disown him as one more in a long line of imposters.

I believe that they will wait in vain. There is something

impressive about Cork on this tour, something that suggests a young man at ease with his destiny, and, if there is no doubt that his swing bowling can play an influential part in the coming series, it is equally certain that he now possesses the character to carry it off.

It was not always so. Cork is still only 24, but he has been playing for Derbyshire for seven years, most of them as a showy, volcanic bowler, who would frequently try to bowl too fast and, when luck ran against him, react loudly and in dubious fashion.

He can see it now, see that it was the headstrong way of the trusting novice. That it was wrong.

Even on the second of his England A tours, in Australia three winters ago, he achieved more of a reputation for making his voice heard than for taking wickets. At that point, his career might have been derailed, especially when knee

Alan Lee talks to a bowler capable of swinging the Test series England's way

injuries began to plague him; but focusing at once on the need to reform on both fronts, he worked on his fitness and began allowing his bowling to do his talking.

"It was a gradual awareness," he said. "Having those injuries taught me I needed a training programme that suited me, and ever since then I have increasingly realised the value of it. At the same time, I became aware that I had too much to say on the pitch. I am a better bowler without that."

He needed to convince people in power that he had genuinely taken such pledges, which may account for the delay in giving him the green light in Test cricket. Like Graham Thorpe before him, Cork went on four England A tours and began to imagine

that he might never be invited up the final step. Also like Thorpe, the wait did him no harm. He was suitably prepared when the time came.

Seven wickets in the victory over West Indies on his debut at Lord's, and 26 in the series, including a hat-trick at Old Trafford, elevated Cork to a place among the sporting celebrities of the year. Unsurprisingly, it also made his head spin.

"I enjoy attention," he said, "but having five reporters camped outside my house and so many outside my mum and dad's place that they had to go away, that was too much."

Cork's solution was to appoint Jon Holmes as his agent, joining the likes of David Gower, Will Carling, Gary Lineker and Michael Atherton.



Cork: automatic choice

ton, his England captain. When he said that it was the best decision that he made all year, he is not thinking of the Pepsi advert that it brought him, or the clothing and book contracts, much less the opportunity to present £20 million to a National Lottery winner.

Cork is interested in money, but for now he is far more excited by winning Test matches; a job that he is approaching here with a significantly intent expression.

Cork is the most intriguing player in this series — at least until South Africa introduce Paul Adams, their curious spin bowler, which will not be before the second Test. By then, if good judges like Phil Neale are correct, Cork may already have given England a precious advantage.

"On the A tour over here two years ago," Neale, who managed it, said, "the ability of Cork and Mark Ilett to reverse-swing the ball late in the day caused the South Africans most of their problems."

Ilett is unlikely to play on Thursday, though nothing is yet set in stone; but Cork will be there, eager to prove that he is not just another statistic in the depressing list of England's fleeing heroes.

Getting away from Alf

Marx and Spens. Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.

Lying flat on his back to get the best view of the ceiling of Kenwood House, the Robert Adams masterpiece in north London, the actor Warren Mitchell admires a painting of Hercules. "The ultimate self-made man," the curator tells him. If Mitchell had been inside the skin of his bigoted alter ego Alf Garnett, he would probably have barked: "Waich a mean wulgar! What about me then?" Mitchell is our guide through his native Highgate. He still cannot stifle the inner voice that asks him what a man who used to be a railway porter and sold the *Daily Worker* at street corners is doing in a posh house with tennis court and swimming pool. Alf Garnett would not have been seen dead at the tomb of Karl Marx. Warren Mitchell has no such inhibitions.

Listen: Buggy Malone. Radio 3, 2.35pm.

It is time I mentioned Radio 3 schools broadcasting. What nudged me is Katrina MacEwan's two-part radio version of *Bugy Malone*, the 1930s-type gangster spoof, filmed in 1976. There had never been anything quite like it. It was a musical, and the gangsters and molls were all played by children. The plot involves gang warfare (shades of Cagney, Bogart and Robinson), but the worst punishment meted out is a faecal of whipped cream or a slap with a custard pie. The zest, confidence and especially the Brooklynese of the entire British cast, all beggar belief.

Peter Davall

Warne delivers final blows in crushing victory

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN BRISBANE

BRISBANE: Australia beat Pakistan by an innings and 126 runs

"IT SHOWS there is a bit of justice in the game."

Shane Warne's words, spoken not without feeling, supplied the postscript to a victory that his bowling had done most to achieve. They were occasioned by his dismissal of Salim Malik, for the first time in Test cricket, which brought a fraught week to a satisfyingly symbolic close.

Warne and Malik were the pivotal figures when the first Test began, bound to each other by the unholy row that simmered until peace was declared almost on the eve of the match. Warne ended it with 11 for 77, Malik with a fourth ball duck as Pakistan were bowled out for 240 in their second innings.

They lost their last seven wickets for 23, figures that echoed Warne's first innings analysis — another symbol, perhaps. Not surprisingly, Australia have never beaten Pakistan by a bigger margin than an innings and 126 runs.

Malik was Warne's ninth wicket, and the bowler loved it. They had avoided each other in the first innings, when Malik rested his injured left hand. On the fall of Wasim Akram's wicket, the sixth, he took his part once more on stage and, before the over was out, had mistimed a drive and McDermott plucked a good, low catch at mid-off.

The Australians said nothing to Malik on his way in so they had nothing to add on his departure. Warne was engaged by his team-mates, who recognised the importance of him winning this personal battle. After being accused of bribery against Malik, and then hearing his bowling skills belittled by the player, who said he could pick him at will, Warne went into the match in a restless frame of mind.

Afterwards, in the manner of film stars, he dedicated the wicket to Simone, his wife, and the rest of his family who had supported him throughout these difficult weeks. His

parents, who travelled from Melbourne to attend the match, must have considered the trip worthwhile.

Warne has now taken 30 of his 137 Test wickets at the Gabba, a ground that traditionally favours the quicker bowlers. He considers it "probably the best cricket pitch in Australia," an opinion hard to contradict on the evidence over the four days.

Warne worried the batsmen most of all with the flipper and other varieties of deliveries that "hurry on", achieving a degree of bounce unavailable to Mushtaq Saqlain, the Pakistani off spinner, who bowled most impressively. It was Warne's third ten-wicket performance in Tests, improving on the 11 for 110 that he took here against England last year.

It was a part-time spinner who created the breach that Warne was able to exploit. Mark Waugh, "Junior", to his colleagues, turned to off spin on the third evening and, when Mark Taylor reintroduced him on the fourth morning, to try to tempt Inzamam into something rash, the captain's intuition brought a swift reward.

The booming drive duly followed and McDermott, pedalling backwards, held a steeping drive at mid-off to give everybody a jolly good laugh.

Basit Ali, shuffling across his crease, was leg-before to the excellent McGrath in the next over, and the end was not far away. Warne was recalled to clean up the tail and he obliged with four of the last five wickets, the final couple going down leg-before to the flipper.

Wasim Akram was philosophical afterwards. Pakistan did not have much cricket before this Test and putting down eight catches in an abysmal fielding performance enabled Australia to make sure that they did not have to bat twice. The fielding and batting must improve before the second Test starts in Hobart on Friday.

It is by no means certain



Warne leaps in excitement after winning his personal battle with Salim Malik

that Malik, so Ijaz Ahmed, summoned from Pakistan to replace Saeed Anwar, may go straight into the team.

The Australians are taking nothing for granted. "People said last year that we would beat England 5-0," Taylor

said, "but it didn't work out that way. It only needs two of their batters to put together a partnership and things can change in a single session."

Taylor has brought dignity to his office, and did not crow about this win, though it would have compensated him for the

frustrating defeat in Pakistan last year. "I don't see it as revenge because I have always got on very well with the Pakistanis," he said. "I prefer to see it as a continuation of what we did in the West Indies. To play so well in the first Test is a good sign."

McGrath impresses with maiden century

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ANTHONY McGRATH confirmed his rich promise in scoring his maiden first-class hundred for England A against the Pakistan Cricket Board XI in Lahore yesterday. McGrath, 20, playing only his seventh first-class match, hit 103 out of an England A total of 355, giving the touring side a first-innings lead of 54.

McGrath's century left a deep impression on John Embury, the tour manager.

"I hadn't seen Anthony play before this tour," Embury said, "but he's a very bright prospect indeed with a Test future. What I like most is his temperament — he is never flustered or hurried."

Resuming on 26, McGrath had reached 54 by lunch, concentrating on defence but looking in control against pace and spin. However, when Dean Headley was bowled to leave England A on 291 for nine, he cut loose, driving Shoaib Akhtar over extra cover for six.

With Richard Stemp supporting stubbornly, McGrath worked his way steadily through the nineties, even playing out a maiden on 99. The Yorkshire pair added 64 for the last wicket. McGrath faced 301 balls in an innings of 5½ hours which included two stuns and 11 fours. A sore knee prevented him from fielding as the Board XI slid to 67 for four by the close, a lead of only 13.

Scoreboard, page 44

Conway's scoring burst leaves Devils deflated

CARDIFF DEVILS ice hockey team remain at the head of the premier division of the National League despite suffering their second league defeat of the season, 6-3 away to Basingstoke on Sunday (a Special Correspondent writes).

Basingstoke's inspiration was Kevin Conway, whose three goals in a six-minute spell midway through the second period took his team to what proved to be an unassailable 5-1 lead. Durham Wasps regained second place from Sheffield Steelers, overcoming an early two-goal deficit to defeat

Newcastle Warriors 6-2. Anthony Johnson, Durham's leading British scorer, found the net on three occasions.

Nottingham Panthers, who have played fewer games than their rivals, maintained their challenge with a convincing 8-3 victory away to Slough Jets, whose latest recruit, Jamie Organ, a netminder, is having a baptism of fire, for he also conceded eight goals at Sheffield the previous night. Without his efforts, however, Slough, might be looking back on even heavier defeats.

Results, page 44

WORLD WATCHING

Answers from page 44

SHAUGHRAUN

(a) In phrases, to go a shughraun to go wrong, on (or in) a (or the) shughraun in a vagrant or drifting state. "Well, the dear knows I think you are trying to destroy my temper. Father, and put me out of my wits and make an unfortunate shughraun out of me."

TIENTA

(a) A mineral, an occasion at which young bulls in the field are tested for spirit as prospective stud and fighting bulls. From the Spanish, literally "probe".

SWIVET

(a) A state of agitation, a fluster or panic. Also a hurry. Frequently in the phrase, in a swivet. Dialect, mainly United States, origin unknown.

VAESTITE

(a) A mineral of the pyrite group, ideally nickel sulphide, NiS₂, found as grey isometric crystals, an eponym of J.F. Vauquelin, 20th-century mineralogist in the Belgian Congo. "The suggestion that many of the natural bivalves are actually vassite solid solutions or two phase mixtures of nickel-rich pyrite and iron-rich vassite."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qxd7+! (1. Nd7+ works equally well) 1... Nxd7 2. Nxd7 Nxd7 3. Ng6 mate.

UNDERSTANDING THINKER?

LOVER | PATCH
SHAKE | EXACT
ALONE | SHONE
SANDS | PLACE
GRASS | BOAST
CRASH | FRAME
WALLS | LANDS
SHOUT | ADORN
SWAMP | SMILE



Place a letter between the words which, when substituted for the second letter of each word either side, will create two other words. When all the letters have been found a word can be read downwards. What is the word?

Get the answer right and we will send you a Certificate of Merit.

The answer is _____ 10/TIM/K/1
If you can solve this puzzle you could be eligible to join Mensa the high IQ society.
Cut the coupon for further details and a copy of the 'self-administered test'.
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Name _____
Address _____
Post Code _____

Mensa

The ghosts of characters past are welcome

There were ghosts in the machine last night. An unlikely and unlikely trio of Blackadder, Desmond and Jimmy Black stalked their way through the evening schedules, gone but very definitely not forgotten.

There was no doubting which spectre went first. His name might have changed to Inspector Raymond Fowler, the series to *The Thin Blue Line* (BBC1) but it was definitely the ghost of Blackadder who had all the best lines.

"There's a place for fatuous, flippant, would-be humorous mania," he told the aptly named DC Kray, "and that place is *Noel's House Party*." As confirmation that while the names had been changed nothing much else had, Ben Elton, who co-wrote *Blackadder* and wrote this new series for Rowan Atkinson all by himself, generously tossed in an old "darling" joke.

"Darling," ventured Sergeant

Dawkins, Fowler's much put-upon love interest since Mrs Brittas. "No, darling, Inspector darling." It was just like old times.

Very old times, in fact. For Blackadder was not the only ghost abroad. Here were visitations from Mr Bean, the man from the credit-card advertisements and the entire cast of *Dad's Army*. With such a spectral pedigree, how could it fail? It could not.

Elton's script prodded gently at the frontiers of mainstream humour with jokes that ranged from basic (lavalier to the positively scholarly, including a memorable rapid-fire exchange that had the Queen transformed from anti-Christ to agoraphobic in about 20 seconds. And yes, they took in anachronism along the way — after all, this is Ben Elton.

Atkinson brought all his familiar comic skills to bear on Fowler, but Elton has made it easy for him,

sacrificing the subtleties of characterisation to comic expediency. As a pedant, Fowler should be a bore and as an innocent (he was sent reeling by the suggestion that Biggles and Ginger were gay) rather tiresome. But as long as the ghost of Blackadder sits on his shoulder and helps with those crushing ripostes, what Fowler actually is, is rather funny.

The supporting cast were uniformly splendid (even those in plain clothes) with James Dreyfus just about in control of the camp PC Goody, a cross between Private Pike and Julian Clary; David Haverly energetically ensuring that DI Grim lives up to his name and Mina Anwar working hard to secure other people's laughs as the no-nonsense PC Habib.

The producers of *Porkpie* (Channel 4) faced a much tougher problem with their opening episode last night. How to ensure that there could be comic life after the death of Norman Beaton, who had made the part of Desmond and the eponymous Brixton barber-shop sitcom very much his own.

Wise, they decided not to follow the example of *Taggart*. Instead they addressed the central issue head on. Desmond had died, his barber-shop was boarded up, his widow had gone back to



REVIEW
Matthew Bond

Guyana and Matthew, Porkpie's sidekick, had returned to The Gambia.

As Porkpie (Ram Jam Holder) shuffled back from a particularly quiet shift as lollipop man (no one had told him it was Saturday), he met Michael, Desmond's son, showing a Chinese restaurateur around his father's premises. But this was no ordinary Chinese restaurateur, this was that master of comic dialect Ozzie Wu, taking time off from playing Mr Wang in *Preston*.

Fronting a Chinese take-away — Desmond would turn in his grave, moaned Porkpie. "No man," replied Yue, lapsing into his best West Indian accent: "a Caribbean take-away." "You're from Jamaica?" asked Porkpie. "No," replied Yue, his vowel sounds adopting their more familiar lilt. "I'm from Birmingham."

It was one of the show's better exchanges and whether people will generally find *Porkpie* funny rather

depends on whether they found *Desmond* funny.

Curiously, however, having gone to all the trouble of picking up the loose threads of its forerunner (and several of its characters) the producers then changed the scenario completely — Porkpie won the lottery jackpot. The better news is that he teamed up with Benji the buyer, played by the unforgettable Derek Griffiths, an actor whose musical credentials go back all the way to *Play School*. They met at a bus-stop with Benji giving a strangled rendition of that old Bee Gees caysop, *Staying Alive*. "Try it in G," suggested Porkpie. The best I can say about *Porkpie* is try it and see.

The best I can say about *Cracker* (ITV) is that, unlike nearly everyone else, I'm enjoying it a lot more than last year and that Liam Cunningham was quite superb as

Grady in last night's concluding instalment of the curiously titled *Best Boys*. Next week, *Key Grip Killers* — I can't wait.

The fact that we have known whodunnit and pretty much why they dunnit for most of two episodes will provide fuel for those who believe the series has become a triumph of style over substance. I wouldn't necessarily disagree but if the end result is a climax as memorably watchable as last night's then I'll settle for style every time.

But the ghost of Jimmy Beck is becoming a serious hindrance to dramatic progress. Last night he took possession of the hapless Temple, forcing him into the sort of displays of scorching incompetence that Beck made his own. We were going over old ground, or as Penhaligon put it: "We've hardly got rid of one little s***, we don't need another one." Time for a little exorcism, perhaps.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (58578)
 - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (9467443)
 - 9.10 Kilroy Topical studio discussion series (s) (4202511)
 - 10.00 News (Ceefax) (5666162) 10.05 Housemates (s) (8100851) 10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Week-day magazine (s) (4577578)
 - 12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9661714) 12.05pm Pebble Mill with Kevin McNally, Belinda Lang, Tony Warren (s) (4727452) 12.50 Regional News and weather (23434714)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (88068)
 - 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (92827801)
 - 1.50 Columbo: Old Fashioned Murder. The shabby sleuth investigates an insurance swindle that involves murder. Starring Peter Falk (Ceefax) (3736546) 3.05 Inconceivable Quiz (s) (106527)
 - 3.30 Funniest (s) (s) (6856337) 3.35 Binky Bili (528627) 4.00 Oscar's Orchestra (s) (6762077) 4.25 Animal Hospital (s) (5957207) 4.35 It's Never Work (Ceefax) (s) (1810801)
 - 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (6849207)
 - 5.10 Byker Grove (Ceefax) (5435608)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (257004)
 - 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (559)
 - 6.30 Regional news magazines (511)
 - 7.00 Holiday. Jill Dando at the annual festa in Santa Fe, New Mexico; Paul Gogarty and his father on a footballing weekend in Rome; Kirsty Young in Llandudor on the Costa Brava; and Kevin Woodford in a country cottage in Devon (Ceefax) (s) (9462)



Liam and Nigel have their day in court (7.30pm)

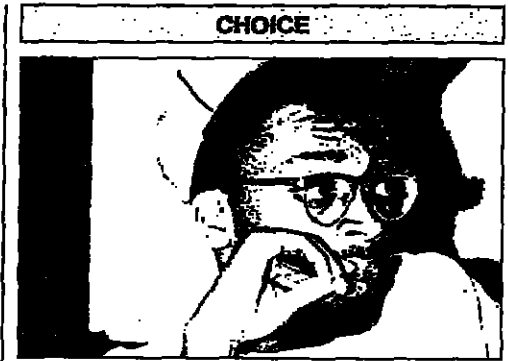
- 7.30 EastEnders. Nigel (Francis Magee) and Liam (Paul Bradley) fight for custody of Claire, while Bianca puts Ricky on the spot (Ceefax) (s) (795)
- 8.00 Due South. Victoria's Secret. Comedy-drama series about a straight-laced Canadian Mountie in Chicago. Continues after the news. (Ceefax) (s) (4627)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (5627)
- 9.30 Due South. Victoria's Secret continued (Ceefax) (s) (52608) 9.30 Week In Week Out (52608) 10.00 The Dragon Wives Back (47617) 10.10 Due South (106153) 10.40 999 Special (330356) 11.30 Film: Victim of Love (30620) 1.00am-1.50 Chris De Burgh (3676738)
- 10.00 999 Special. Stories from people whose lives have been affected by drinking and driving, presented by Michael Burk and Juliet Morris. This programme was praised by the police and the Department of Transport when it was originally broadcast in 1994 (s) (Ceefax) (s) (627269)
- 10.50 FILM: Victim of Love (1991) with JoBeth Williams and Pierce Brosnan. A psychiatrist begins a relationship with a housewife who, the more he discovers, the more he also sees one of her most unstable patients. Directed by Jerry London (Ceefax) (s) (125378)
- 12.00am Chris De Burgh in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall (s) (4047979)
- 1.10 Weather (3330195)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Technology Season
 - 7.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax) (4903795)
 - 7.15 Lassie (541838) 7.40 The Legend of Prince Valiant (s) (Ceefax) (s) (1145578) 8.05 Blue Peter (s) (Ceefax) (s) (3379714) 8.35 The Paradox of the Emperors. The lives of a colony of Emperor penguins (4152998)
 - 9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (2033171)
 - 2.00 The Family Ness (s) (7602459) 2.05 Christopher Crocodile (s) (7601630) 2.10 A Century of Warfare. The Western Front 1914-45 (s) (683637)
 - 3.00 News and weather, A Week to Remember (b/w). Newsround from 1955 (7210288)
 - 3.15 Nicholas. A harpessed boy living in Nova Scotia involves murder. Starring Peter Falk (Ceefax) (3736546) 3.45 The History Man visits Norwich (6866174) 3.55 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6741172)
 - 4.30 Today's Day. History quiz (s) (424)
 - 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (608)
 - 5.00 Esther. Leaving the rat-race (s) (7240)
 - 5.30 Going Going Gone. Auction game (288)
 - 6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (s) (780998)
 - 6.25 Heartbreak High. Drama series about the students and staff of an inner-city Australian high school. (Ceefax) (s) (817917)
 - 7.10 Dear Dilemma. Series of dramatised crises which are then discussed by celebrity guests. (Ceefax) (s) (331066)
 - 7.30 From the Edge. Topical magazine series made by disabled people for the disabled population (Ceefax) (s) (337)
 - 8.00 The Limit: The Tallest Tower (s) (3424)



Pauline Quirke makes a wine selection (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Food and Drink. Magazine show presented by Chris Kelly (Ceefax) (s) (2559)
- 9.00 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? Vintage comedy (s) (Ceefax) (3269)
- 9.30 Nice Work. Mad Passionate Dreams. (Ceefax) (s) (32676)
- 10.10 Tools of the Trade: The Diary (colour and b/w). The last in the companion series to the above. Principles of time-management (Ceefax) (s) (104362)
- 10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow. (Ceefax) (333578)
- 11.15 The Unseen Hand. The role of engineers in the design process. (s) (271421) 11.55 Weather (620068)
- 12.00 Fast Forward. Irreverent comedy sketch show from Australia (s) (68825)
- 12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone



Spike Lee comes under scrutiny (C4, 9.00pm)

Without Walls
Channel 4, 9.00pm

In *Letter From America* Christopher Hitchens, a kind of one-man J'accuse, is at pains to illustrate why the white ie, black — hope of American independent film-making, Spike Lee, is not all he appears. In *Spike's Gotta Have It*, he shows how Lee moved beyond filming "a self-mocking black Brooklyn pitched against Woody Allen's Jewish Manhattan" to a grander scene where the peaceful politics of Martin Luther King were edged out by an apparent loyalty to the Islam of Malcolm X. In part two — *My Generation: Hermit's Hermits*, Manchester's "boys next door" reflect on their runaway success — in America they were "as big as the Beatles" — in the Sixties.

The Limit
BBC2, 8.00pm

As part of the *Grand Designs* series, engineering buff Robbie Coltrane narrates a series about the frontiers man sets himself in terms of the biggest, longest, fastest and, in tonight's opener, tallest — like the Sears Tower in Chicago where the top floors sway dramatically in the wind. It's hard to get much higher than Sears because life cables can't take it. But two distinguished dreamers are planning to double its height with their own Millennium Tower: 180 stories and nearly a kilometre high. British architect Sir Norman Foster and top Japanese civil engineer Kozo Shimizu believe they can get round the major problems with a steel-rimmed cone. The cost? A mere \$10 billion. The buyer? Time in and find out.

Network First: The Gettys — A Tragedy of Riches
ITV, 10.40pm

The concluding chapter of this deeply disturbing family saga witnesses the death of the purse-lipped J. Paul Getty in 1976 (even the funeral arrangements were the stuff of tragedy-comedy) and the ensuing break-up of a family, never stable, now torn apart at the seams. Focus falls on the dreadful Mafia kidnapping of "golden hippy" Jean Paul III whose ear was severed before his grandfather would consider a ransom, and Jean Paul's savage sister Abby, one of the few Getty grandchildren who actually works for AIDS charities. Perhaps the sanest and most fulfilled is Mark, their youngest brother, who is supervising the newly formed Getty Investment Holdings. He has a lot to say about his illustrious grandfather.

Nice Work
BBC2, 9.30pm

Mad Passionate Dreams concludes this series on working life with a visit to one of those persistent pockets of unemployment which show little chance of changing. Award-winning director Penny Woolcock is on the Penryn estate in Mid Glamorgan where 95 per cent of the potential workforce are finding other ways to pass the time. One man rears iguanas (an expensive hobby, surely), another trains as an athlete. "No focus, no focus," says the presenter, "but what we do have is quality stuff like the stars and what are we doing here..." But in sad fact, he doesn't have much choice. The lottery on TV draws a feverish audience (and supplies the subtitle) and crime is taking its toll. "A civil war is coming," says Colin... Elizabeth Cowley

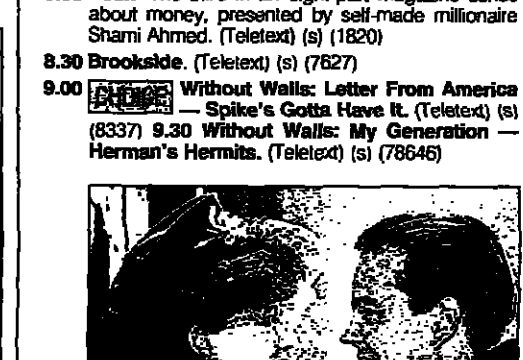
- CARLTON**
- 6.00am GMTV (9906801)
 - 9.25 Supermarket Sweep Quiz (s) (9262085)
 - 9.55 London Today (Teletext) (1883638)
 - 10.00 The Time... the Place with John Stapleton (s)
 - 10.35 This Morning Magazine show (7203337)
 - 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (9667998)
 - 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News and weather (9690462)
 - 12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (9675153) 1.25 Emmerdale (s) (Teletext) (8619158) 1.55 A Country Practice (s) (9282232)
 - 2.20 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (70071085) 2.50 Capital Weekend (s) (2532327)
 - 3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (8734443)
 - 3.25 London Today (Teletext) (8733714)
 - 3.30 Giggle Allsorts (s) (5766608)
 - 3.40 Tots TV (s) (9661289) 3.50 Hot Rod Dogs (s) (5763424) 4.05 The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat (5222511) 4.15 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (8223998) 4.40 The Ward (Teletext) (s) (2941966)
 - 5.10 After 5 with Carol Keating. Includes singer Lenny Kravitz (Teletext) (7862191)
 - 5.40 ITN News news and weather (Teletext) (969998)
 - 5.55 Your Show. Viewers' views (413714)
 - 6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (627)
 - 6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (237)
 - 7.00 Emmerdale (Teletext) (4530)
 - 7.30 Tuesday Special: Girl Gangs have organised leaders, protect their territory and are proud of their convictions for violence and theft (s) (191)



Russell Boulton and Tom Cotcher (8.00pm)

- 8.00 The Bill: Compensation. When they investigate the kidnapping of a teenage girl, Boulton and Woods ask for help from some distraught parents. But is everything as it seems? (Teletext) (8838)
- 8.30 The Cook Report. Roger Cook investigates loopholes in the Child Support Agency laws (9085)
- 9.00 Soldier, Soldier: Hard Lessons. Army drama series. (Teletext) (s) (9559)
- 10.00 ITN News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (42733)
- 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (236743)
- 10.40 Network First: The Gettys — A Tragedy of Riches. (Teletext) (639676)
- 11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (385191)
- 12.40am War and Remembrance. The 1944 assassination attempt against Hitler fails, Paris is liberated and Natalie Henry and Aaron Joslow are deported further east to a concentration camp. With Robert Mikhun, Jane Seymour, Victoria Tennant, David Dux, Robert Morley and Sharon Stone (s) (78844) Followed by ITN News headlines
- 2.30 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (s) (44405)
- 3.00 The Beat (s) (6091467)
- 3.55 America's Top Ten (s) (9629125) 4.20 On the Live Side. Chuck Mangione, Ron Carter (s) (9652196) 4.30 Videofest: The Mod Squad (64134) 4.50 Vanessa (s) (Teletext) (s) (11554)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (56080). Ends at 6.00

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.35am Heathcliff Cartoon series (s) (8821628)
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (29317)
 - 9.00 Evening Shade (s) (s) (29882)
 - 9.30 Schools: Eureka! (4796801) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (4794356) 10.00 The Farm (564024)
 - 10.10 Maths Everywhere (3680202) 10.25 How We Used to Live (3686227) 10.45 Caricature (2436248)
 - 11.00 New Living Body (3065545) 11.20 Stage One (6622191) 11.35 Film and Video Showcase (4082714) 11.45 First Edition (4035288)
 - 12.00 House To House. Political magazine (49646)
 - 12.30pm Sesame Street. With Randy Travis (18917) 1.30 Widget (s) (s) (25415191)
 - 1.55 Voice-Over Queen. An impeccable actress is forced to accept a job doing a voice-over for an advertisement (15733153)
 - 2.05 FILM: I Am a Camera (1955) starring Julie Harris and Laurence Harvey. Christopher Isherwood's story of life in 1930s Berlin, which was the source for the musical Cabaret. (Teletext) (938191)
 - 4.00 Think Tank. Quiz. (Teletext) (s) (820)
 - 4.30 Fifteen To Ten (Teletext) (s) (284)
 - 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Favourite rooms. (Teletext) (s) (4065917)
 - 5.50 Tenytoons (403337)
 - 6.00 The Avengers: From Venus With Love. Camp special agent adventures starring Patrick Macnee and Diana Rigg (s) (Teletext) (66801)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News. (405917)
 - 7.55 Four Fingers and a Thumb. A week-long series on British Sign Language (s) (301085)
 - 8.00 Dosh. The third in an eight-part magazine series about money, presented by self-made millionaire Shami Ahmed. (Teletext) (s) (1820)
 - 8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (7627)
 - 9.00 Without Walls: Letter From America (Teletext) (s) (8337) 9.30 Without Walls: My Generation — Herman's Hermits. (Teletext) (s) (76846)



Emily Lloyd and Kiefer Sutherland (10.00pm)

- 10.00 FILM: Chicago Joe and the Showgirl (1989) starring Kiefer Sutherland and Emily Lloyd. Second World War drama about an American Army deserter and a London chorus girl who meet and are immediately attracted to one another. They go on a crime spree that leads to the gallows. Directed by Bernard Rose. (Teletext) (s) (451559)
- 11.55 Nurses. Black comedy series set in a Florida hospital. (Teletext) (s) (866408)
- 12.25am Four Fingers and a Thumb. A repeat of the programme shown at 7.55 (s) (3127221)
- 12.30 FILM: Goodbye New York (1985) starring Julie Hagerty, Arnie Kohn and Christopher Penniman. A mildly satirical take on a New Yorker who arrives in Tel Aviv with no luggage or money. Directed by Amos Kolton. (799565)
- 2.15 World Tennis. Action from Stockholm, Moscow, Santiago, Montevideo and Buenos Aires (84844)
- 2.45 The Sahara Project. The final episode of the German drama. Dubbed in English (370487). Ends 3.45

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
- As London except 9.55am-10.00 Anglia News and Weather (188338) 12.20pm Anglia News (567385) 12.55 Emmerdale (9675153) 1.25-1.55 Home and Away (961581) 2.50-3.20 Marquee (526327) 3.25-3.50 News and Weather (783714) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (782919) 6.25 Anglia Weather (494714) 6.30-7.00 Anglia News (507173) 7.00-7.30 The Little Prince Show (783714) 10.30-10.40 Anglia News (526743) 12.20pm Film: Victim of Love (30620) (507326) 3.15 The Beat (301197) 4.05 The New Music (987500)
- CENTRAL**
- As London except 9.55-10.00 Central News and Weather (188338) 12.20pm-12.30 Central News and Weather (9675153) 1.25-1.55 Home and Away (961581) 2.50-3.20 Marquee (526327) 3.25-3.50 News and Weather (783714) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (782919) 6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (188338) 7.00-7.30 The Little Prince Show (783714) 10.30-10.40 Central News (526743) 12.20pm Film: Victim of Love (30620) (507326) 3.15 The Beat (301197) 4.05 The New Music (987500)
- GRANADA**
- As London except 9.55-10.00 Granada News (967385) 12.20pm-12.30 Granada News (967385) 1.25-1.55 Home and Away (961581) 2.50-3.20 Marquee (526327) 3.25-3.50 News and Weather (783714) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (782919) 6.25-7.00 Granada News (967385) 7.00-7.30 The Little Prince Show (783714) 10.30-10.40 Granada News (526743) 12.20pm Film: Victim of Love (30620) (507326) 3.15 The Beat (301197) 4.05 The New Music (987500)
- HTV WEST**
- As London except 9.55-10.00 HTV News (188338) 12.20pm-12.30 HTV News (967385) 1.25-1.55 Home and Away (961581) 2.50-3.20 Marquee (526327) 3.25-3.50 News and Weather (783714) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (782919) 6.25-7.00 HTV News (967385) 7.00-7.30 The Little Prince Show (783714) 10.30-10.40 HTV News (526743) 12.20pm Film: Victim of Love (30620) (507326) 3.15 The Beat (301197) 4.05 The New Music (987500)
- HTV WALES**
- As London except 9.55-10.00 HTV News (188338) 12.20pm-12.30 HTV News (967385) 1.25-1.55 Home and Away (961581) 2.50-3.20 Marquee (526327) 3.25-3.50 News and Weather (783714) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (782919) 6.25-7.00 HTV News (967385) 7.00-7.30 The Little Prince Show (783714) 10.30-10.40 HTV News (526743) 12.20pm Film: Victim of Love (30620) (507326) 3.15 The Beat (301197) 4.05 The New Music (987500)

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

- SKY ONE**
- 7.00am The DJ Hit Show (94222) 8.00 Pop Rangers (78271) 8.30 Jeopardy (78291) 9.00 Court TV (94578) 9.30 Oprah Winfrey (95999) 10.00 Concentration (94485) 10.30 Sally Jessy Raphael (46508) 12.00 Southland (76714) 12.30pm Desiring Women (25578) 1.00 The Volume (17373) 2.00 Granada (38889) 3.00 Court TV (78291) 3.30 Court TV (94578) 4.00 The Volume (17373) 4.30 The Volume (17373) 5.00 The Volume (17373) 5.30 The Volume (17373) 6.00 The Volume (17373) 6.30 The Volume (17373) 7.00 The Volume (17373) 7.30 The Volume (17373) 8.00 The Volume (17373) 8.30 The Volume (17373) 9.00 The Volume (17373) 9.30 The Volume (17373) 10.00 The Volume (17373) 10.30 The Volume (17373) 11.00 The Volume (17373) 11.30 The Volume (17373) 12.00 The Volume (17373) 12.30 The Volume (17373) 1.00 The Volume (17373) 1.30 The Volume (17373) 2.00 The Volume (17373) 2.30 The Volume (17373) 3.00 The Volume (17373) 3.30 The Volume (17373) 4.00 The Volume (17373) 4.30 The Volume (17373) 5.00 The Volume (17373) 5.30 The Volume (17373) 6.00 The Volume (17373) 6.30 The Volume (17373) 7.00 The Volume (17373) 7.30 The Volume (17373) 8.00 The Volume (17373) 8.30 The Volume (17373) 9.00 The Volume (17373) 9.30 The Volume (17373) 10.00 The Volume (17373) 10.30 The Volume (17373) 11.00 The Volume (17373) 11.30 The Volume (17373) 12.00 The Volume (17373) 12.30 The Volume (17373) 1.00 The Volume (17373) 1.30 The Volume (17373) 2.00 The Volume (17373) 2.30 The Volume (17373) 3.00 The Volume (17373) 3.30 The Volume (17373) 4.00 The Volume (17373) 4.30 The Volume (17373) 5.00 The Volume (17373) 5.30 The Volume (17373) 6.00 The Volume (17373) 6.30 The Volume (17373) 7.00 The Volume (17373) 7.30 The Volume (17373) 8.00 The Volume (17373) 8.30 The Volume (17373) 9.00 The Volume (17373) 9.30 The Volume (17373) 10.00 The Volume (17373) 10.30 The Volume (17373) 11.00 The Volume (17373) 11.30 The Volume (17373) 12.00 The Volume (17373) 12.30 The Volume (17373) 1.00 The Volume (17373) 1.30 The Volume (17373) 2.00 The Volume (17373) 2.30 The Volume (17373) 3.00 The Volume (17373) 3.30 The Volume (17373) 4.00 The Volume (17373) 4.30 The Volume (17373) 5.00 The Volume (17373) 5.30 The Volume (17373) 6.00 The Volume (17373) 6.30 The Volume (17373) 7.00 The Volume (17373) 7.30 The Volume (17373) 8.00 The Volume (17373) 8.30 The Volume (17373) 9.00 The Volume (17373) 9.30 The Volume (17373) 10.00 The Volume (17373) 10.30 The Volume (17373) 11.00 The Volume (17373) 11.30 The Volume (17373) 12.00 The Volume (17373) 12.30 The Volume (17373) 1.00 The Volume (17373) 1.30 The Volume (17373) 2.00 The Volume (17373) 2.30 The Volume (17373) 3.00 The Volume (17373) 3.30 The Volume (17373) 4.00 The Volume (17373) 4.30 The Volume (17373) 5.00 The Volume (17373) 5.30 The Volume (17373) 6.00 The Volume (17373) 6.30 The Volume (17373) 7.00 The Volume (17373) 7.30 The Volume (17373) 8.00 The Volume (17373) 8.30 The Volume (17373) 9.00 The Volume (17373) 9.30 The Volume (17373) 10.00 The Volume (17373) 10.30 The Volume (17373) 11.00 The Volume (17373) 11.30 The Volume (17373) 12.00 The Volume (17373) 12.30 The Volume (17373) 1.00 The Volume (17373) 1.30 The Volume (17373) 2.00 The Volume (17373) 2.30 The Volume (17373) 3.00 The Volume (17373) 3.30 The Volume (17373) 4.00 The Volume (17373) 4.30 The Volume (17373) 5.00 The Volume (17373) 5.30 The Volume (17373) 6.00 The Volume (17373) 6.30 The Volume (17373) 7.00 The Volume (17373) 7.30 The Volume (17373) 8.00 The Volume (17373) 8.30 The Volume (17373) 9.00 The Volume (17373) 9.30 The Volume (17373) 10.00 The Volume (17373) 10.30 The Volume (17373) 11.00 The Volume (17373) 11.30 The Volume (17373) 12.00 The Volume (17373) 12.30 The Volume (17373) 1.00 The Volume (17373) 1.30 The Volume (17373) 2.00 The Volume (17373) 2.30 The Volume (17373) 3.00 The Volume (17373) 3.30 The Volume (17373) 4.00 The Volume (17373) 4.30 The Volume (17373) 5.00 The Volume (17373) 5.30 The Volume (17373) 6.00 The Volume (17373) 6.30 The Volume (17373) 7.00 The Volume (17373) 7.30 The Volume (17373) 8.00 The Volume (17373) 8.30 The Volume (17373) 9.00 The Volume (17373) 9.30 The Volume (17373) 10.00 The Volume (17373) 10.30 The Volume (17373) 11.00 The Volume (17373) 11.30 The Volume (17373) 12.00 The Volume (17373) 12.30 The Volume (17373) 1.00 The Volume (17373) 1.30 The Volume (17373) 2.00 The Volume (17373) 2.30 The Volume (17373) 3.00 The Volume (17373) 3.30 The Volume (17373) 4.00 The Volume (17373) 4.30 The Volume (17373) 5.00 The Volume (17373) 5.30 The Volume (17373) 6.00 The Volume (17373) 6.30 The Volume (17373) 7.00 The Volume (17373) 7.30 The Volume (17373) 8.00 The Volume (17373) 8.30 The Volume (17373) 9.00 The Volume (17373) 9.30 The Volume (17373) 10.00 The Volume (17373) 10.30 The Volume (17373) 11.00 The Volume (17373) 11.30 The Volume (17373) 12.00 The Volume (17373) 12.30 The Volume (1737

